

ATHENAEUM.

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# The Leader.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—*Humboldt's Cosmos*.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1854.

[PRICE SIXPENCE.

## News of the Week.

FRESH rumours are sent us from opposite quarters, that there are yet hopes of peace,—that Prussia is anxious to mediate, that Russia is willing to accept the last offer made to her, and that after all there will be no fighting. These rumours may affect the stocks, but they do not materially affect us; and we do not observe that they cause any arrest in the progress of sending out our forces, naval or military. The officers who are going to join the armies in the East do not set out with any expectation of finding it a holiday parade, and Sir Charles Napier has cautioned the public that the magnificent fleet, of which only the first division has sailed for the Baltic, may not be able to accomplish so much as in our fond pride we are prone to expect. We may, however, expect great things from it, nevertheless; for a fleet of forty-four sail, manned by 22,000 English sailors, well officered, charged with sustaining the repute of England, and accompanied by a fleet equally responsible to France, if it cannot presume victory, will unquestionably be expected to add new honours to the national flag. Sir Charles Napier sailed on Saturday morning, literally escorted to sea by the Queen of England; and, similarly attended, Rear-Admiral Corry followed on Thursday.

The military preparations are also pushed forward with vigour. Lord Lucan takes the command of the cavalry, with Lord Cardigan in command of the light, and Colonel Scarlett of the heavy brigade. The latter will consist of the 4th and 5th Dragoon Guards, the 1st Royal Dragoons, and the 6th Enniskillens; the former of the 8th and 11th Hussars, the 13th Light Dragoons, and the 17th Lancers. It will be remembered that the Royals and Enniskillens were brigaded, together with the Scots Greys, at Waterloo. Probably those "terrible Grey horses," whose fine appearance at Chobham last year recalled one of the most glorious episodes of June 1815, will accompany their old comrades to new fields. But the principal military fact is the appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel Mundy to be Military Secretary under the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Out of the Russo-Turkish question have arisen a cloud of smaller questions, begetting small perplexities to Ministers, and forming an atmosphere

in which the ingenious arts of Opposition have revelled. The grand question of last week,—"What did Sir James Graham mean in saying that Sir Charles Napier had his authority to declare war in the Baltic?"—has been almost, though not quite, superseded by the question, "What did the Emperor mean in saying that there had been negotiations between England and Russia with regard to the gravest eventualities in Turkey?" Then what did the *Times* mean by explaining that there *had* been such negotiation, and that Lord John Russell had repelled some proposal pleasing to Russia. Next, how did the *Times* get the knowledge of the unpublished correspondence? And what did various people mean by the assertions which they make in explaining that publication of the *Times*?

The meaning of the Emperor is now tolerably clear. When he was over here, in 1844, the probable disruption of the Turkish empire induced him to lay his views before the English Ministers—notably the Duke of Wellington, Sir Robert Peel, and Lord Aberdeen; and Count Nesselrode reduced those views to a memorandum, which he lodged with Lord Aberdeen, and the tenor of which Lord Aberdeen at present forgets. Subsequently, similar views were laid before Lord John Russell at the time when he was acting as Foreign Secretary, and it is implied that he declined to fall in with the desire of Russia to discuss the grave eventuality. Ministers, however, have promised the correspondence, or such parts of it as can be given without injury to the public interest.

But, then, how did the fact reach the *Times*? Probably, Lord Aberdeen thinks, through a young gentleman whom Lord Malmesbury put into the Foreign Office, who left that office, and who has recklessly talked about the identical correspondence. This Lord Malmesbury denies, pointing to the want of proof in support of the assertion, and advancing in the young gentleman's defence the valuable evidence that he has married a lady of fortune. The greatest evidence, however, is, that the young gentleman was not in office late enough to know all that the *Times* stated to the public; so that the manner in which the great journal absorbs the information lying round it still remains a mystery to the contending legislators. Evidently the *Times* knew what Lord Derby knew already, and how did he know? That was a home question put by Lord Aberdeen. A further question might be, who did not know

it? for we can aver that the knowledge of the fact was not confined to the office of the *Times*. And Lord Aberdeen has since admitted that he was mistaken about the young gentlemen.

Sir James Graham's explanation of what he said to Sir Charles Napier over the dinner-table, at the Reform Club, is more studiously couched in the official language of reserve, and is less explicit. Having avowed that he had given his authority to Sir Charles to declare war in the Baltic, Sir James now explains that war has not been declared against Russia at all; that Sir Charles has not orders to enter the Baltic; that at a subsequent date "he will receive a formal communication." The long and the short explanation, however, is all open to everybody. Sir James meant to be jolly—that is the whole mystery. The explanation, however, is terribly scandalous to Mr. Bright, who cannot conceive how a man sitting in the same august assemblage with himself can be jolly on the subject of war, and who sermonises Lord Palmerston for speaking on that lugubrious subject with "levity."

The Ministerial scheme for Reform at Oxford was described last night by Lord John Russell as a "large and comprehensive measure;" and in some respects it deserves the praises lavished on it by its author. In re-organising the constitution of the University, the Government have partially adopted the recommendations of the Commissioners. The Hebdomadal Board is to be replaced by a Board of twenty-four members. The Vice-Chancellor and the two Proctors are to be members *ex officio*, and the rest, consisting partly of Heads of Colleges, and partly of Professors and senior members of the University, are to be elected, with some exceptions, by Congregation—the oldest form of the literary public of Oxford—a body composed of all the resident Masters, and which it is now proposed to restore. The exceptions are that one Head of a College and one Professor will be appointed by the Chancellor, while one Regius Professor of Divinity will be a member of the Board *ex officio*.

The distinction between the University and the Colleges is to be recognised, and the benefits of the University are to be extended by the establishment of private Halls, with the permission of the Vice-Chancellor, and under the superintendence of a senior Master of Arts. The restrictions upon Fellowships are to be abolished, with an exception in favour of public schools; and the Colleges are to be allowed to fix one-fourth

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of their Fellows from the obligation to take orders. Collegiate oaths are to be done away. A portion, not exceeding one-fifth, of the property of the Colleges is to be confiscated for the endowment of old professorships, or the establishment of new ones. Our readers will perceive that we were able last week to anticipate the leading provisions of the Bill. The grand objection of the scheme is that tests are still retained. The University is not yet national, for, as Mr. Miall observed last night, it is still closed against those who dissent from the Established Church, and those who belong to no religious persuasion at all.

Mr. Walpole would have only an "enabling" measure—an idea that might be extended. Let us abolish our compulsory and penal laws, and pass none but 'enabling' laws—laws enabling bankrupts to pay their debts, trespassers to abstain from illegalities, and burglars to respect the street-door.

War, Ministers, and Oxford, however, have been by no means the only subjects in Parliament; but the rest inevitably falls into a minor place. Lord Monteagle has been having a fling at the Civil Service project of Sir Charles Trevelyan. Mr. Apsley Pellatt has introduced into the Commons a bill to sanction affirmation instead of oath, in case of conscientious scruple—a good bill, but questionably competing with the Government bill on the same subject, which would be practically quite as useful. The Lord Chancellor's bill to transfer testamentary jurisdiction to the Court of Chancery has been referred to a select committee; so also Mr. Forster's bill to prevent the payment of wages by truck; and Mr. Whiteside's bill to secure free disposal of property by women in convents awaits the report of Mr. Chambers's committee.

Nothing has had a more disagreeable effect on the public mind than the continued proceedings in the Irish committee on breach of privilege. Certain scenes have been performed in that theatre, not worse, perhaps, in their way than some with which we are more familiar, but more disagreeable in their effect—perhaps in part from their comparative novelty. We do not allude to the graver part of the investigation, nor to evidence like that of Mr. Napier, in declaring his belief that such practices as negotiations to sell places do prevail, and are not limited to members who are in the present Parliament, or to those out of it. But we refer more to the unseemly squabbles, and to the almost ludicrous facility of disclosure by witnesses against their friends which does not strike the English mind with the ordinary effect of candour. Mr. Lucas, for example, who is more Irish than the Irish themselves, and who had made such vehement charges of corruption against Mr. Keogh, now admits that the charge resolves itself into nothing more distinct than a general assertion of corrupt conduct in accepting office, and in remaining there, after Mr. Keogh's political antecedents. Mr. Keogh retorts with assertions that he and Mr. Lucas had previously become unfriendly, and by calling to mind how he had said that Mr. Lucas was a person who would stab a man in the back. And "Tom Arkins"—Lord Mayor O'Connell's Sword-bearer, subsequently Sword-bearer to Lord Mayor Reynolds—expatiates in statements how he has collected money for Mr. Reynolds.

Abroad, the chief question of the day is the position of Prussia, who manifests a new coolness in the alliance; upon which we have touched in a separate paper. The missions of Prince Hohenzollern Sigmeringen and Baron Groeben, to the French and English Courts, are understood to be failures—though what they hoped to succeed in is not stated. The Prussians are awake to keep their Government *national* rather than Russian; and Count Schwerin has been extorting from the Ministry in the Chambers, a meaningless as-

surance of mere inaction. In like manner the Danes are awake, and the Ministry of Oersted has broken down before an address from the Diet, calling them to explain themselves in regard to the constitution!

The circumstances under which the new French loan is "taken up" constitute an innovation in finance: dissatisfied with the terms offered by capitalists, the Emperor has appealed to the public. The consequence is such a general rush, that it is almost an approximation to a loan by universal suffrage. It is a decided success.

While we are sending out our brave soldiers and seamen to fight the battles of Europe—to die perchance on the quarter-deck like Nelson, or on the field like Sir John Moore—we are abruptly reminded that the servants of peace may be as suddenly cut off as the servants of war. The bullet is not more fatal than the stroke of apoplexy; and as the former strikes the soldier cheering on his troops to victory, so the latter remorselessly seizes the judge on the bench, while making an eloquent charge against the active causes of disorder and crime. In both cases, strength, virtue, and renown, are in an instant laid low; and the lesson of life and death sinks deeply into the mind of the most frivolous and forgetful. Mr. Justice Talfourd was one of those choice spirits whose sudden disappearance from amongst us we all mourn as a private and personal loss. There have been more profound and subtle lawyers, more powerful orators, more inspired poets; but few men who, crowning gifts with accomplishments, at once combined law, poetry, and oratory, and rose to so esteemed a rank in all as Talfourd. But he was more than all of these together—if the better for being all of these; in the words of his brother-Judge Coleridge, he was "eminently courteous and kind, generous, simple-hearted, of great modesty, of the strictest honour, and of spotless integrity." Human character is, at the best, but a balance of good and evil; but of few men can it be said that their foibles were outweighed by so many public virtues and so many endearing qualities in private life.

There are few whose presence will be so keenly missed, and so tenderly lamented, as this patient, humane, enlightened judge, this delicate and sensitive friend and follower of art and letters, this loving and loveable heart, so long the home of all unostentatious charities, of all expansive sympathies, of all refined and generous emotions.

#### LATEST FROM TURKEY.

We find in the *Morning Chronicle* of this day the following very important intelligence from Constantinople:—

CONSTANTINOPLE, MARCH 9.

Yesterday (8th) a four hours' conference was held between the English and French Ambassadors and Reshid Pacha, touching the convention between the Western Powers and Turkey.

The chief points are:—

1. The Porte engages never to negotiate with Russia without the intervention of the Western Powers.

2. Amelioration of the condition of the Christians. A separate treaty is annexed, for the following four points:—

1. Abolition of the poll-tax (harasch).  
2. Right of Christians to be admitted as witnesses in judicial proceedings.

3. Right to hold landed property, without distinction of nationality or religion.

4. The civil rights of the Christians admitted in the army and the civil service.

The destination of the English and French forces is to be left to the decision of the Sultan.

Russia has prohibited the exportation of corn from Odessa.

Turkey has also prohibited the exportation of corn.

The Porte is preparing an expedition to Greece. General Burgoyne is gone to Schumla.

#### PARLIAMENT OF THE WEEK.

The interest of the Parliamentary record of the week lies in some incidents that have arisen out of the Eastern Question, which have, at least two of them, afforded subjects for some smart debating, without adding much to our knowledge. Ministers have had to meet and repel a series of attacks from the two hostile sessions acting, we suppose, in unwilling concert, the followers of Lord Derby and Mr. Bright.

Lord Derby began the assault on Monday, in making a very fair inquiry, in a hostile manner. The groundwork of his inquiry was an article quoted from the *St. Petersburg Journal*, in reply to the speech of Lord John Russell on the 17th of February, and the statements made by the *Times* in commenting on that article. In his preface Lord Derby said he noticed the *Times* because that journal enjoys to a great extent the confidence of the Government, and "more especially of the noble earl at the head of the Government—('Hear hear' from Lord Aberdeen)—which at all events reflects with singular accuracy the opinions of the noble earl"; and because the comments of the *Times* were hardly less remarkable than the article to which they referred.

The Emperor of Russia, or rather the editor of the *Journal of St. Petersburg*, who probably would not without the imperial sanction put forth a document of this character, after commenting upon the language made use of and the expressions applied to the Emperor by Lord John Russell, in his place in the House of Commons, proceeds to say:—"That such distrust may have been entertained by France—that it may up to a certain point have found a place in the mind of a Government still recent, which has not had time to acquire by long experience of former relations with it an exact idea of our real intentions, and abandoning itself involuntarily to the almost traditional opinion which has been formed of Russian policy in the East—that may be easily conceived; but on the part of England, which is aware of the antecedents and the character of the Emperor from a connexion of long date, an opinion of such a nature justly excites surprise. Less than any other the British Government should entertain such suspicions. It has in its hands the written proof that there is no foundation for them, for long before the present condition of affairs, before the questions which led to the mission of Prince Menschikoff to Constantinople had assumed so serious an aspect of difference, before Great Britain had adopted the same line of policy as France, the Emperor had spontaneously explained himself with the most perfect candour to the Queen and her Ministers, with the object of establishing with a friendly understanding even upon the most important result which can affect the Ottoman empire." The *Times*, in its leading article, substitutes another expression which is rather of a stronger character. It says:—"The English Government thinks fit to declare that, whatever might be the grounds of mistrust entertained by other powers, the English Ministry had no reason to doubt the views of Russia, inasmuch as at an early period preceding Prince Menschikoff's mission the Emperor Nicholas had 'spontaneously communicated with the Queen of England and her Ministers, for the purpose of establishing an intimate agreement with them, even in the event of the most formidable contingency which could befall the Ottoman empire.'"<sup>1</sup> The *Journal of St. Petersburg* goes on to say:—"Since the year 1829 his Majesty followed with great attention the march of events in Turkey. The Emperor could not shut his eyes to the consequences of the changes which were one after the other introduced into that State. Ancient Turkey disappeared from the time when it was sought to establish those institutions diametrically opposed as well to the genius of Islamism as to the character and usages of the Mussulmans—stitutions more or less borrowed from modern liberalism, and consequently entirely opposed to the spirit of the Ottoman Government. It became evident that Turkey was undergoing a complete transformation, and that these experiments, at least doubtful so far as regarded the re-organisation of the empire, seemed rather calculated to lead to a crisis which would overturn it. It seemed likely that a new order of things would arise which, although indefinable, would at all events destroy that which existed."<sup>2</sup> The writer then alludes to these events which, in his opinion, have greatly aggravated and accelerated the crisis in Turkey, and among which he enumerates the affair of Montenegro, the religious persecutions exercised in several Christian provinces, a difference with the Austrian Government, considerable financial embarrassment, and, lastly, the important affair of the Holy Places and the "imperious demands" of the French ambassador at Constantinople. He then proceeds to say:—"Penetrated with the extreme importance of such a result, and having at that period almost reached the region of the possible, if not entirely of the probable—convinced of the disastrous consequences which might result from it, the Emperor thought it necessary to assure himself beforehand whether the English Government shared his apprehensions. He wished more particularly by a frank previous understanding to remove every subject of misunderstanding between Great Britain and himself. It seemed of the highest importance to his Majesty to establish the most perfect identity of views with the Government of Great Britain." He goes on to say:—"With this view the Emperor engaged the English minister at St. Petersburg to cause her Majesty to be informed of his anticipations with respect to the danger, more or less imminent, that menaced Turkey. He requested on this subject a confidential interchange of opinions with her Britannic Majesty. That was certainly the most evident proof of confidence which the Emperor could give to the Court of St. James; and thus did his Majesty most openly signify his sincere wish to prevent any ulterior divergence between the two Governments. Sir H. Seymour acquitted himself further of the important commission which the Emperor had impressed on him in a long and familiar conversation. The result has shown itself in a correspondence of the most friendly character between the present English ministers and the Imperial Government. It is not permitted us to divulge

the contents of non-official documents, which do not concern the Emperor alone, and which contain the expressions of a mutual confidence. What we are permitted to say is, that in examining the circumstances more or less likely to affect the duration of the *status quo* in the East—an examination undertaken from the conviction respectively entertained that every effort should be made to sustain that *status quo*, and to prolong it as long as possible—there never was any question of a plan by which Russia and England might dispose beforehand, and between themselves, of the destiny of the different provinces which constitute the Ottoman empire; still less of a formal agreement to be concluded between them, without the knowledge and unassisted by the counsel and intervention of the other courts. The two parties were limited to a frank and single confidence, but without reserve on either side, to communicate what might be adverse to English interests, what might be so to Russian, so that in any given case hostile or even contradictory action might be avoided."

Lord Derby then insinuated his charge that Government, having this correspondence in its hands, had no right to express, as it had done, surprise at the aggressive policy of Russia. He did not at all complain that the correspondence had been withheld.

Previous to the production of those papers I had some intimation of the existence, and even of the nature of such a correspondence; but I thought that the Government might regard it as a correspondence of so confidential a character that it should not be made public, and in that case I considered it my duty not to make use, in this House, of any information which I might privately have obtained. But, my lords, I am about to refer now to the comments which are made—comments of a very singular character—by the *Times* newspaper. This is not the first occasion upon which the *Times* newspaper, within the course of the last few months, has professed to be in possession, and has proved to be in possession, of secrets which ought to have been known only to the Cabinet, and has had communicated to it papers which have been refused, and are still refused, to the two Houses of Parliament. The noble earl at the head of the Government may therefore disclaim as he thinks fit having any communication with the *Times* newspaper. I do not say whether he has or not. He may have no communication whatever directly and personal himself; but all the noble earl's disclaimers will not persuade me, or any human being in this country, that the *Times* newspaper would insert such an article as that I am about to read to your lordships, or would convey information of the character of that to which I am about to refer, without being authorised by a person or persons who thereby have divulged that which ought to have been a Cabinet secret. The *Times* says:—"We are informed that in the course of Lord John Russell's brief administration of the Foreign-office—that is, in January, 1853—Sir Hamilton Seymour was requested by the Emperor, and empowered by his own Government, to enter into a detailed private conversation with the Emperor himself on this subject; and a correspondence ensued, not of an official character, and the secrecy of which does not concern the Emperor alone, but which disclosed in the fullest confidence the views of the Court of St. Petersburg with reference to the approaching dissolution of the Ottoman empire." The *Times* refers to previous and present transactions apparently with a full knowledge of the facts, and gives to the communications of the Emperor of Russia the interpretation which I think is likely to be given to them by the country—namely, that the Emperor of Russia did entertain the most ambitious views with regard to Turkey, and had, as he thought, placed himself in a state of identity of action with the British Government. It proceeds:—"We have not now to learn for the first time that before the Emperor Nicholas engaged in these extraordinary transactions he had attempted at various times and in different forms to lure almost every Court in Europe to share in the plunder of Turkey. As long ago as his own visit to this country he held the same language, and it may have been repeated in greater detail in the course of last winter." Now, the *Times* newspaper is not only in possession of the fact of these communications having been made, of this correspondence having taken place, and of the character and nature of the correspondence; but the *Times* newspaper appears also to be aware of the fact of an answer having been sent, and of the nature and character of that answer. It goes on, "But what answer did he get to these overtures? What answer did he get when he sounded Lord John Russell, of all men in the world, on the subject of an eventual partition of Turkey?" We confidently reply, that he was met by an indignant refusal on the part of the British Government. He was told, if we are not greatly mistaken, that this country could entertain no proposal in any form which presupposed the dismemberment of an empire the integrity of which we had frequently engaged to respect and even to protect; that the British Government strenuously opposed any change in the *status quo* of Turkey, as a source of danger and difficulty to the world; and that, as this communication had been made in a friendly spirit, England strongly recommended the Emperor of Russia to abstain altogether and scrupulously from any interference in the affairs of Turkey which must be productive of great peril to the world. As these communications were of a confidential nature, and wholly anterior to and unconnected with the affair of the Holy Places and Prince Menschikoff's mission, the Government appear to have thought that they did not properly form part of the correspondence recently laid before Parliament, but constituted a separate transaction. This challenge of the Russian Government relieves them from all further uncertainty on that point. Lord John Russell's answer to the Russian overture will do him no disservice; and, although in time of peace it might have been inconvenient to lay bare the pretensions Russia has sometimes indicated, our present relations are not likely to suffer from an 'indiscretion' she herself has provoked; and we trust the whole correspondence will be immediately produced."

How was it that any newspaper became of possessed of confidential information withheld from that House? But that is a minor question. What is important is, that last year Government, in spite of

warnings from all quarters, professed a belief in the solemn assurances of the Emperor of Russia. What became of all those assurances now? The Emperor, it seems, communicated his designs, and met with an indignant refusal. Are the two consistent? But the statement of the *Times* does not merely refer to the present year. It refers to past communications made by the Emperor to Lord Aberdeen, in 1844. Immediately on the accession of Lord Aberdeen to office, in 1853, these designs are put in operation.

The questions, he continued, which I wish to put are very simple. They are—whether her Majesty's Government believe the document inserted in the St. Petersburg paper to be an authentic one? whether such correspondence and communications as are there referred to as being of a confidential character did take place between her Majesty's Government and the Government of Russia? and if such correspondence did take place, being now challenged to produce it, and their confidential character having been taken away from them, I ask whether the noble earl will, in justice to the people of this country, produce the whole of that correspondence, which I do not blame him for not having produced before? I will also ask whether there is any truth in the statement made by a particular paper in this country, to the effect that there were communications of a similar character made in 1844, at the time the Emperor of Russia was in this country? and if so, whether these communications ever assumed the form of writing? and if they did, whether the noble earl is prepared to place these papers also on the table of the House.

Lord ABERDEEN began his reply as follows:—

The statement to which the noble earl has referred is certainly one of considerable interest and importance, and finding it in the place we do, I presume we must consider it as possessing a sort of official character. More than that I know nothing; and the noble earl is quite as well able as myself to form a conclusion as to the character of that statement. I have seen it nowhere except where he has, and know no more. The communications to which the noble earl has referred, which took place between her Majesty's Ministers and the Emperor himself, were, as the noble earl has stated—and the course has not been disapproved—retained by her Majesty's Government, and not printed with the papers laid upon the table of the House, in consequence of the character of those communications. It has not been usual—whatever may be the case with communications with foreign ministers—to lay upon the table of the House official conversations and correspondence, such as those described in this document, between the Sovereign himself and the Foreign Minister. For that reason it was that her Majesty's Government did not think it proper or consistent with that respect and delicacy which they were bound to observe towards a Sovereign with whom they were still in alliance, to produce these papers, which are of the character I have described.

He explained that, had not Lord Derby put these questions, he should have produced the papers. When they are produced Lord Derby will find himself egregiously mistaken in his hope to make out a case of blame against the Government.

The noble earl has, however, referred to the commentaries made upon this subject in a public journal—the *Times* newspaper. The noble earl may, perhaps, be surprised—considering, as he does, that a very close connexion subsists between that paper and some members of her Majesty's Government—to learn that until this morning I never read the comments to which he has referred; and neither directly nor indirectly—and here I feel some advantage in having the character of a man of honour—I have neither directly nor indirectly the most remote conception of the origin of those remarks—not the slightest. I am, therefore, perfectly in ignorance of the source from which they were received. I do not know that I can say anything more upon the subject than that, being in total ignorance, I can form no conjecture as to the source whence the comments were derived, unless, as I have recently heard, from a clerk in the office over which the noble earl the Secretary for Foreign affairs presides—a gentleman introduced by the noble earl opposite (Lord Malmesbury), but who has betrayed, scandalously betrayed, the contents of some official documents in the office with which he was connected. That is the way, I am informed; but I do not know whether it is from that source or not that the correspondence has been made public, and the comments made upon it to which the noble earl has referred. All I can say is, that neither directly nor indirectly have I the slightest knowledge upon the subject. I have already answered the first question which the noble earl has put to me, and I have also stated what was the intention of the Government with respect to it. With respect to the other question, it is certainly true that when the Emperor of Russia was in this country, several interviews took place, and conversations between the late Duke of Wellington and myself. I am not sure whether any took place with Sir Robert Peel or not. But with myself and the Duke of Wellington the Emperor entered at large into the state of affairs in the East, and expressed the views and prospects which he entertained on the subject. It was, I think, shortly after his Majesty's visit to this country that Count Nesselrode came here, and I am not sure whether or not he was here at the same time; but Count Nesselrode embodied these views of the Emperor and the conversations which had taken place in a memorandum reduced to writing. I have not seen that memorandum for the last ten years, since it was written, and probably the noble earl opposite may know more about it than I do; and not having seen it for so long a period, I am not prepared at this moment to say whether it may be fitting or not to lay it upon the table of the House.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH said that the Emperor of Russia had communicated with Sir Robert Peel. Lord CLANRICARDE hoped the whole of these private conversations would now be made public. Lord

MALMESBURY seemed indignant at the introduction of his name. Lord Aberdeen, he said, had no business to make a statement, the accuracy of which he was not fully aware. It was not consistent with the usages of that House, or of gentlemen. Who was the gentleman who had betrayed these secrets? For some time past Cabinet secrets had oozed out on subjects upon which information was refused to Parliament. He should seriously consider whether a searching Parliamentary inquiry should not be made into these matters.

Lord ABERDEEN said he did not know at the moment the name of the gentleman. Lord DUNRATH said that, unless for gross neglect of duty, it ill became the First Lord of the Treasury to stigmatise possibly an innocent man. Earl GREY joined in the denunciation "of the course adopted with respect to Cabinet secrets." Information not to be obtained in that House one night, was the next morning to be found in a public journal. Lord FITZWILLIAM, equally indignant, declared that their lordships were too much under the dominion of the press—it was most mischievous to the conduct of public affairs.

The next day Lord MALMESBURY renewed his complaint. When in the Foreign-office he had appointed four clerks; three remained; one had married a lady of fortune, and had left the office. That must have been the gentleman alluded to. But the *Times* denied having had any communication with that gentleman.

Lord ABERDEEN said he was happy that statement had been made, as he was desirous the matter should rest on an accurate footing.

My lords, you will recollect that the noble earl who introduced this subject last night gave, in no very obscure terms, an intimation that he imagined I was the source whence this information was derived. Rejecting that insinuation in the most peremptory manner I possibly could, I certainly did state that it was probable—but I did not make the assertion or express the belief—that the *Times* newspaper had derived its information from the gentleman to whom I alluded. What I had heard was this, and what I repeat is, that that gentleman did talk of this correspondence, and of his knowledge of the contents of this correspondence which has been communicated to the *Times*. I am so certain of this, and, though he certainly did not mention it to me, I have heard it from so many different quarters that I am quite satisfied to refer it to the gentleman himself. If he says that he did not mention the existence of this correspondence and the nature of this correspondence, then I will confess that I have been more deceived than man ever was. But I refer it entirely to his own statement, and I am sure, because I have ascertained from quarters that I cannot possibly doubt, that it was mentioned with so little hesitation or concealment, that the gentleman himself will avow that he has referred to the correspondence in question. Now, I never stated that the *Times* newspaper received it from him, but in the heat of the moment, and in reference to the insinuations of the noble earl, I certainly did refer to a quarter from which it might possibly have come. What was stated in one society might very well be known in another; and, after all, the noble earl [Derby] stated last night that he was aware of the correspondence at the beginning of the session. How did he learn it? Certainly not from me. But I may say that I think it was an act of imprudence on the part of this gentleman to talk in the way he did about the contents of this correspondence, which he certainly had cognisance of confidentially; but, after all, I made no charge, and I repeat that I believe the gentleman himself will not deny what I have stated.

Lord MALMESBURY doubted the statement of Lord Aberdeen when he said he knew nothing about the clerk on the previous day; and again protested that he had been unfairly used.

In the House of Commons on Monday, Mr. DISRAELI, following the usual custom, put the same questions to Lord J. RUSSELL, and received a reply similar to that given to Lord Derby by Lord Aberdeen—but no mention was made of the escape of state secrets on either side.

The second incident arose in the House of Commons, out of the famous Napier banquet at the Reform Club. Here the questioners were Mr. French, Sir Thomas Herbert, and Mr. Bright, who made himself the hero of the evening.

Mr. FRENCH put two questions to Sir J. GRANT. First, by what authority he, at the Reform Club, delegated power to Sir Charles Napier to declare war; and secondly, whether he meant that authority to be acted on in anticipation of the reply of the Czar?

Sir JAMES said—

Although, sir, I am not disposed to admit the right of the hon. gentleman to put a question with respect to what passed after dinner—(great laughter)—at the Reform Club, it would, perhaps, not be respectful if I were not to give some answer to it. I have to state, then, to the hon. gentleman—with respect to the authority said to have been given by me to Sir Charles Napier to declare war, in the part of my speech which has been alluded to—that what passed upon that occasion was this: Sir Charles Napier had said, in the course of his speech, that he hoped before he entered the Baltic he should have authority to declare war; and I, following Sir Charles Napier, and replying to the observations made by him, stated that when he entered the Baltic I hoped there would be no difficulty on his part in declaring war. But I have to state further, that there was no present declaration of war—that no orders have been given to Sir Charles Napier to enter the Baltic—and that

when war is declared, a proper intimation will be given of the fact.

It was at this point Mr. BRIGHT rose, and, in order that he might make a speech, moved the adjournment of the House.

He said the answer of Sir James Graham did not meet the case. There are matters connected with this question that affect the Government as a Government. On the authority of statements in the morning papers Mr. Bright told how the ambition of Lord Mayor Sidney prompted him to propose a dinner to the officers of the army and navy, and how Lord Aberdeen, thinking it injudicious, stopped the giving of that dinner. That dinner did not take place, but a dinner at the Reform Club did take place. Why was it, if the Mansion-house dinner was postponed as injudicious, that three Cabinet Ministers attended the dinner at the Reform Club? He looked upon the occurrence as a proof that there is a majority and a minority in the Cabinet. He would say nothing of the good or the bad taste of Ministers of the Crown attending these dinners. Ministers who had brought the country to the precipice of a war would not be very particular as to the means they take of stimulating public passions in order to cover their blunders. Lord John Russell had been asked to preside; but he had too much respect for his own character, and Lord Palmerston took his place. Mr. Bright could not help contrasting the language used by Lord Palmerston about the good faith of a certain ruler abroad, with the language he used two years ago, to terrify the House, about the landing of a marauding army of 60,000 Frenchmen on our shores. Then there was Sir William Molesworth! Twelve months of office had changed all his opinions. He had forgotten the doctrine of non-intervention he advocated in 1850. He now came to Sir James Graham—a man not to be surpassed for the precision of his language—who in flat contradiction to the opinion of Lord John Russell, not only vouches for the gallantry, but the "discretion" of Sir Charles Napier. Mr. Bright, with singular inconsistency, here complained that a man passed the period of vigour, should be placed at the head of a costly fleet; that the subject of war had been treated with levity—they had been funny about it; and he asserted that nothing could excuse the indiscreet language used by Sir James. Mr. Bright said he read the whole of these proceedings with pain and humiliation; and he took Lord Palmerston to task for telling joking stories at such an awful moment.

He had not to wait long for a reply. Lord PALMERSTON was up in an instant, and set the House roaring by beginning his speech in these words—"If the honourable and reverend gentleman"—

But Mr. COOPER rose to order. That expression was not parliamentary, and though, perhaps, not intended as personally offensive, was flippant and undeserved.

Lord PALMERSTON rejoined that he would not quarrel about words. Whatever Mr. Bright might say of his conduct he treated with indifference and contempt. No doubt the pain he felt was at finding any men expressing an opinion that arms ought to be resorted to.

Now, I do say, I felt very proud at being invited by the Reform Club to preside on that occasion. I thought it an honour conferred on me, to preside at a dinner given in honour of Sir Charles Napier. The hon. member thinks Sir Charles Napier too old for the duty which has been devolved upon him; the result, however, will show whether he is too old or not. The honourable member, moreover, thinks that these dinner questions must be Cabinet questions. (Laughter.) Now, I can assure them they are open questions, and are not discussed in the Cabinet—(laughter); and—although I confess his speech was calculated to excite anything but a friendly feeling—if the honourable member will only get himself elected a member of the Reform Club—["He is a member already"]—then, I am afraid a most unworthy member—but if he will only fall more into the humour of the Reform Club, and attend the next dinner given to a distinguished officer going upon foreign service, I can assure him that, whether he be in the state in which he assumes my right honourable friend not to have been, or able to go to the convivialities of the evening with the same clear mind which he displays here on all occasions, we shall be happy to hear his speech, and to allow him to discuss any question, whether of peace or war, that he may choose; and I, at all events, shall not think that he discredits himself by attending a dinner given by the club to a distinguished officer, one of its own members, before starting for foreign service. (Cheers.)

Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH vindicated himself thus—

As the hon. member for Manchester has alluded to my presence at the dinner, I wish simply to say that I attended there as one of the oldest members of the Reform Club. I was called on to propose the health of the Turkish Minister, and I expressed very briefly my view of what had been, and what ought to be, the policy of her Majesty's Government—that they had endeavoured, to the best of their power, to preserve peace—that their efforts had been unsuccessful—that the time for vigorous action was now come, and that I hoped success would attend our arms. In saying that, I simply expressed an opinion which I am ready to express in this House, or anywhere else, and I do not think that there was anything in my remarks in opposition to anything that I have ever said. The hon. member for Manchester has thought proper to accuse me of having changed my sentiments since I have sat on this bench. To that accusation

I give a flat contradiction. I do not belong to that hon. gentleman's school. And although I acknowledge his talents, and admit him to be an able man, I think that he is full of illiberal and narrow-minded prejudices.

Mr. DISRAELI made a speech of characteristic tact, taking occasion to have a fling at the Government. He said the question had been healed with too much gravity:

He could not help thinking there were some extenuating circumstances that might be alleged at the present moment on the part of the right hon. baronet. It was perhaps possible he might indiscretely have interfered for the moment with the exercise of the prerogative of the Crown. It was possible that the right hon. gentleman might have told Sir Charles Napier that he was at liberty to declare war. (No.) But it was a matter of considerable notoriety that Sir Charles Napier never obeyed orders. (Laughter.) He considered that when the right hon. gentleman told Sir Charles Napier that he was at liberty to declare war, he was quite confident that Sir Charles Napier would maintain peace. He thought too much had been made by his gallant friend (Sir T. Herbert) of the declaration of the right hon. gentleman, that he felt considerable gratification at two powerful fleets being commanded by reformers. He confessed that when he read that passage for the first time it seemed to him that the expression had been used in a partisan spirit, which he could not for a moment suppose could wisely administer the Admiralty of this great country. But on reflection even that objectionable passage assumed a very different character. No doubt it was a subject of great congratulation to the right hon. gentleman that these two large fleets that had been sent out under his auspices were commanded by two sound reformers; but then they must recollect, on the other hand, that at the present day sound reformers were gentlemen who did not reform. (Laughter.) Therefore, he looked on these two reformers as two conservatives. Reformers of the present day were the most harmless of beings, and therefore he came to the conclusion that these two sound reformers were to keep the fleet harmless. There was another point in the speech of the right hon. gentleman that he confessed did give him some alarm, and that was the invective that he expressed against the Emperor of Russia. Having just been informed by the noble lord the leader of the House, that they were still in negotiation with that potentate, and being possessed of the opinion that war was not declared, having only a few days ago been assured by the Prime Minister, that he considered war was not inevitable, he did consider that an English minister, with the great talents of the right hon. gentleman going to this dinner of a political club, and giving expression to these sentiments, was most undignified and indiscreet, but further reflection convinced him that there was more discretion in the right hon. gentleman even in this respect than on the surface of the matter appeared, because he remembered that rather more than a year ago the right hon. gentleman delivered an invective against another Emperor, and Mr. Disraeli committed the grievous error of calling the attention of the House of Commons to it. The right hon. gentleman now said the Emperor of the French was the best, the most worthy, and cordial ally her Majesty ever had, and therefore he had no doubt that even when using that invective against the Emperor of Russia, the right hon. gentleman saw much further than they did, and the consequence was that they would soon find that the Emperor of Russia also was a most cordial ally of her Majesty.

Mr. SPOONER concurred with Mr. Bright in his censures of the peccant Ministers, and the subject dropped.

In the midst of the debate Sir THOMAS HERBERT, alluding to another expression attributed to Sir James Graham, asked whether he had at the dinner in question observed—"We, as reformers, may be proud that the honour of the British flag in the Euxine and the Baltic is entrusted to two such champions as Admiral Dundas and Sir Charles Napier?"

Sir JAMES GRAHAM admitted the correctness of the report, and saw no reason to regret or retract the expression. The important commands alluded to had doubtless been given from no political considerations; but it was a matter on which reformers might fairly congratulate themselves that two approved champions of reform were found worthy of holding them.

The third incident was a dull discussion on the Greek insurrection, conducted by the minor debaters. The order of the day for Committee of Ways and Means having been moved, Mr. MONCKTON MILNES called the attention of the House to the circumstances of the Greek insurrection in Turkey, and expressed apprehensions that the most disastrous consequences would follow if it were permitted to be suppressed with unrestrained cruelty and violence. It was the duty of this country to endeavour by mediation and every fair means to put a stop to these calamities, and the appointment of a British commissioner to watch the contest might be attended with the best effects. Since we were compelled to make war, it should be our object to make even war the instrument of civilisation, and to advance the moral and intellectual welfare of the world.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL agreed very generally in the opinions expressed by the honourable gentleman. It was necessary for the British Government to discourage the insurrection, even whilst sympathising with the sufferings to which the Christian population of Turkey was often exposed. Nothing could be more fatal to every hope of advancement than such an insurrection, which could not, under present circumstance, be successful. British troops would not be employed to suppress the insurgents.

Mr. RICH, Lord LOVAIN, and Lord CLARES HAMILTON enlarged upon the wrongfulness of either assisting the Turks with British troops to put down the insurrection, or of permitting the Turks to suppress it by any but regular troops. Mr. LAYARD defended the Turks, showed that they had made great reforms of late years; and proved that the accounts of Ottoman cruelties were exaggerated by the Vice-Consuls in the Mediterranean, almost all of whom are Ionians, and many of the checks to progress were attributable to their intermeddling and intrigues.

Viscount PALMERSTON said he was not disposed to rate too highly the danger to be apprehended from the Greek insurrection, which was well known to owe its origin rather to excitement and instigation from without than to national or religious enthusiasm.

Mr. GIBSON expressed alarm at the different versions of Ministerial policy given by the various members of the Government, and the indefinite responsibilities we were incurring in the East. He called for the production of the convention said to have been concluded between Great Britain, France, and Turkey.

Sir ROBERT PEEL declared his entire approval of the policy of Ministers, and hoped that the voice of Parliament and public opinion would be efficacious in deterring the Greeks from insurrection.

So the matter ended; and the House went into Committee; but on the threshold Mr. Disraeli objected to going on with the income-tax resolution at that hour, and Mr. GLADSTONE readily gave way.

OATHS.—Mr. PELLATT moved for leave to bring in a bill substituting declarations for the oaths now required in a variety of legal, commercial, and professional transaction. The multiplicity of instances in which these solemn formalities were at present exacted resulted in much irreverence and profanity, and led to a general familiarity with perjury. He proposed to enact accordingly, that in all cases where conscientious scruples were entertained, a simple affirmation might be substituted, at the desire of the taker, who should still remain liable to all the penalties now assigned to the crime of perjury, if it should be proved that he had affirmed a falsehood.

Mr. HADFIELD seconded the motion.

Lord PALMERSTON consented to the introduction of the bill, and admitting that oaths might advantageously be dispensed with in many cases where they were now exacted; upon important occasions and judicial proceedings, he thought that the attesting formality should be maintained with the utmost solemnity. He approved also of the precaution inserted in the bill brought forward on the subject in another House, by which it was left to certain appointed authorities to decide upon the nature of the alleged scruples, and determine whether effect was to be given them.

The House divided. For the motion, 109; against, 18; majority, 1.

Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

#### ALTERATIONS IN THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

Mr. HEYWOOD rose to move an address to her Majesty for a copy of the alterations in the Book of Common Prayer proposed by the Royal Commissioners for the Revision of the Liturgy in 1881. The commissioners, whose alterations were intended to be submitted to convocation, and subsequently considered in Parliament, numbered among them individuals of no less eminence than Stillingfleet and Tillotson. When they had concluded their labour, the original copy of the alterations they proposed, in the handwriting of the Royal Commissioners, remained in the hands of Archbishop Tillotson. It then passed successively into the hands of Bishop Gibson, the Dean of Arches, and the Archbishop of Canterbury. The present archbishop thought he had no right to give a copy of this paper, unless the House of Commons and the Crown should consent to its publication. He thought these alterations worthy of the consideration of Parliament, and that something was wanting in our historical documents so long as a copy of this paper could not be regarded as a public document.

Lord PALMERSTON said, the Government did not intend to offer any opposition to the motion.

Mr. GOULBURN said, it was perfectly true such a document was in the archbishop's library, but it was a private library, and he did not know how they could ask for a document in a private library. It was not necessary for information, for its purpose had already been published; and not only so, but it formed the foundation of the church in the United States. The question was, whether they would compel the owner of a private library to produce a document, information respecting the subject of which could be obtained from another source?

Mr. HENLEY considered that no good reason had been assigned why private property should be invaded to produce the document in question.

Mr. LABOUCHERE said, the library in question had descended from archbishop to archbishop in the see of Canterbury, and could hardly be called a private library. He did not think any principle violated so much a degree by the present motion that they ought not to entertain it.

Mr. GOULBURN referred to a letter in which it was stated that the book was in the library in question, but, there being an express direction that it was to

be kept secret, the archbishop was unwilling to make it public, unless the House of Commons desired it. It was, therefore, entirely a question for the House to decide.

Mr. GLADSTONE said, there was a difference in the present motion and one in which the House was moved for returns. In the latter case the returns were compulsory, and no option was left; but in an address of this description it was always referred to the discretion of the Crown so that it would be open to his noble friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department to frame his communication in such a manner as to avoid anything like interference with a private matter. He did not consider the document was asked for to gratify personal curiosity, for such a document might fairly be called a matter of historical interest, appertaining as it did to a subject of such great public interest. He thought, subject to a due regard for private rights, the motion might properly be granted.

Mr. K. SEYMER thought they ought first to be informed of the object for which it was required by the hon. member, whether it were indeed to investigate a subject of historical interest, or for some other purpose which might be attended with mischief to the country.

The House then divided, when there appeared, for the motion, 132; against, 83; majority for the motion, 49.

**Laws of Mortmain.**—Mr. HEADLAM obtained leave to bring in a bill affecting the disposition of property of all kinds for charitable and religious purposes. He proposes to leave the law relating to bequests of land for such purposes exactly as it stands. But with regard to personality, he proposes that the will giving such estate must be executed three months before the death of the testator, and that within one month after its execution notice of the amount of any charitable gifts and of the purposes to which they are applied must be given to the Charity Commissioners; with the exception that books, pictures, statues, and objects of that kind, might be given without restriction to public institutions, such as the National Gallery, the British Museum, and establishments of that description. Subject to certain provisions with respect to notice, he proposes that all titles bad in consequence of defects of the existing law shall be henceforth valid.

**Another Convent Bill.**—Mr. WHITESIDE moved for leave to bring in a second bill, designed to secure to persons under religious vows the free exercise of their rights in the disposal of property. The law already recognised the possibility of undue influence under certain relationships, such as those between lawyer and client, guardian and ward, and sought to counteract the effect of that influence by avoiding the conveyance of property affected by those parties. This principle he sought to extend to persons under spiritual guardianship. Instead of annulling grants and conveyances made by a man in favour of the convent in which she was secluded, he proposed simply to shift to the parties claiming property under such deeds the onus of showing that they had not been obtained by undue influence.

The bill was opposed, as unnecessary, by Mr. MOORE, Mr. BOWYER, Mr. LUCAS, and other Irish members. Adopting a suggestion of Mr. Lucas, Lord PALMERSTON recommended that legislation should be postponed until the report of the committee of inquiry into the state of conventional establishments had been presented. The principle of the bill he found deserving of approval, and did not object to the introduction of the measure if it was not to be pressed further at present.

Other speeches having been made, the House divided. For leave to bring in the bill, 68; against, 40; majority, 28.

#### RUMOURED ATTEMPT OF RUSSIA TO RE-OPEN NEGOTIATIONS.

Mr. DISRAELL.—Perhaps the noble lord will allow me to put a question to him, of which I have not been able to give notice—namely, whether the Government have received any official information of a renewed proposal on the part of Russia for the settlement of the misunderstanding in the East having been submitted to her Majesty's Minister at Vienna?

Lord J. RUSSELL.—No proposition has been submitted to her Majesty's Minister at Vienna.

**HIGH TREASON.**—Mr. WHITESIDE moved to introduce a bill for assimilating the law and practice existing in cases of treason in Ireland with those observed and admitted in England respecting similar charges. The distinctions now to be found between the systems of the two countries were, he contended, useless and invidious.

Lord PALMERSTON signified his consent to the motion, which was then agreed to and leave given.

**PAYMENT OF WAGES.**—Mr. FORSTER moved the second reading of the Payment of Wages Bill. He was met by this amendment from Mr. CRAUFURD: "That before any further legislation on the subject of the payment of wages be sanctioned by this House, a select committee be appointed to inquire into the operation of the laws affecting the relations of masters and workmen, and to report whether any and what amendment may be requisite in those laws."

Mr. HEYWORTH, Mr. BRIGHT, and Lord STANLEY supported the view expressed in the amendment. Mr. DRUMMOND, Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOVVERIE supported the bill. Sir GEORGE GREY argued that further inquiry is unnecessary. On a division, the bill was carried by 166 to 56.

**CIVIL SERVICE.**—Lord MONTEAGLE moved for a copy of the instructions given to the commissioners who have reported on the state of the Civil Service, and of the evidence taken before them. The noble lord in a speech of considerable length entered into an elaborate discussion of the changes recommended in the Civil Service, and expressed his total inability to concur with them. He contended that

they had been arrived at *ex parte*, and complained that the commissioners' report had been printed in the newspapers on the 9th of February, although it was not presented to Parliament until the 24th.

Earl GRANVILLE said there was no objection to produce the instructions, but the evidence could not be given, as no short-hand writer had been admitted during the inquiry. The Government were of opinion that some such change as that recommended by the commissioners might advantageously be made; and he added that it had the support of the heads of various departments. When the Government should bring their measure forward, it would be found free from the slightest selfish feeling, and to have been prepared solely with the object of improving the Civil Service.

Lord BROUHHAWE doubted whether any plan was really in contemplation; but if one was, he certainly could not agree with it.—After a brief debate, in which the Earl of Harrowby, the Marquis of Clanricarde, and the Duke of Argyl engaged, Lord MONTEAGLE replied, and the motion was agreed to.

**ENDOWED GRAMMAR-SCHOOLS.**—Mr. PELLATT moved for an address for the appointment of a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the state, average number of pupils, discipline, studies, and revenue of endowed schools of England and Wales; also of the endowments for scholars, their number and revenue; likewise of all bequests of libraries, and endowments for their support; the character, numbers, and condition of the books, the number of the librarians and their salaries, with the view of increasing the educational and other advantages to the public in general.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL objected to the motion, as it would entail great expense and disturb the proceedings of the Charity Commission, which would take cognisance of these schools.

The motion was generally objected to, and withdrawn.

#### ALLEGED CORRUPTION OF IRISH MEMBERS.

This investigation promises to be a long one. Already the committee has been sitting three weeks, and little definite information has been obtained. On Friday Mr. Lucas was again examined. As before, he was very sparing of his knowledge, if he has any. He named Mr. Butt, Mr. Bright, and Mr. Keogh as persons likely to give information. Fastening on Mr. Keogh, he made against him a general charge of dishonourable conduct; but pressed by the committee, and especially by Mr. Keogh himself, he was forced to admit that he brought against Mr. Keogh no charge of selling places; no charge of voting to obtain patronage; nor exactly, of voting to obtain place; but he declared that Mr. Keogh had "acted corruptly in taking office," breaking his solemn promises, and had acted "corruptly ever since."

Mr. Keogh: It is now about fifteen months since I took office. Had not you and I very strong personal disagreements long before that period? In fact, did not I once describe you, in your presence, at a large public meeting at Athlone, as one who would plunge a dagger in a man's back, but would never dare to do anything to his prejudice openly in his presence? (*Confusion in the committee-room.*)

Mr. Lucas: I do not recollect that you used those expressions. You charged me with being a calumniator, using the strongest language which could easily proceed from human lips; and I said that whenever a coalition was formed between Whigs and Tories, Mr. Keogh would accept the place of Solicitor-General for Ireland.

Dr. Giffard, editor of the *Standard*, was examined respecting a letter printed in that newspaper, intimating that Mr. Roche, member for County Cork, had acted corruptly. Dr. Giffard said he did not know who wrote the letter; the post mark, he thought (Cork), showed it was genuine. He frequently inserted letters without knowing who wrote them. All he took care of was that the letters did not contain a libel.

Mr. Napier, late Attorney-General for Ireland, said a general opinion prevailed that members of Parliament take money for places. He had no doubt such things did occur.

Mr. Roche was informed by the committee that no imputation rested upon him; he might record, if he thought fit, a protest against the accusation in the *Standard*.

Mr. Roche: I should wish the declaration that I have made to be put upon the minutes of the committee. My statement is this:—I most positively and particularly contradict the accusation or insinuation which has been made in that anonymous letter; and I declare most positively and most solemnly that it is unfounded. I say, moreover, that it is a cowardly and base calumny.

Mr. Thomas Arkins, sword-bearer to the Dublin corporation, said he had collected 300*l.* for Mr. Reynolds, late M.P. for Dublin, from the officers of the Dublin corporation who had obtained compensation when the Corporation Reform Bill abolished their offices. Mr. Reynolds accepted the money; but the witness believed it was paid as a compensation for the loss of Mr. Reynolds's seat.

The story of the paid guardianship seems to be incorrect. The young man, Fair, wanted a place, and, it is stated, declared his willingness to pay for it. He had interviews with Mr. O'Hara and Mr. Graham, both of whom were examined, but nothing was said, at the brief interview with Mr. Graham, about money.

Dr. Gray made these statements: he affirmed that in 1851, when Mr. Disraeli made a motion, some of

the Irish members had great difficulty in voting against the Government of Lord John Russell, because they had received patronage. One of these was Mr. Francis Scully; but Mr. Fagan and Mr. Roche, to whom the matter was referred, on its being shown that Mr. Scully had made no bargain with the Government, said he was at liberty to vote as he pleased. Another "difficulty" subsequently occurred with reference to Mr. Reynolds, who at a late hour had refused to vote against the Government. Some of the Irish members came to witness and asked him to speak to Reynolds, and press him to give his vote against the Ministry. Mr. Reynolds said that his conscience would not allow him to do so; and Mr. Reynolds further said, on Mr. Disraeli's motion being mentioned, that no Irish member could possibly vote against it, no matter what the consequences might be. Mr. Fagan then pulled witness by the skirt, and handed him a list in Mr. Reynolds's handwriting of the names of members who could be relied upon as men who could vote for the Government; and among them was the name of Mr. Reynolds. Witness said to Mr. Reynolds, "I think you'll have to vote against the Government. That is your handwriting; I will frame and glaze it, and put an advertisement in every Dublin paper to say that the original may be seen in your handwriting in the *Freeman's office*." Mr. Reynolds under pressure of the threat went down and voted against the Ministry.

Mr. Bindon told a story of a man named Michael Enright, who came to him and made application for a place. He told the man he would have nothing to do with the transaction. Enright then said he would give witness 9*l.* if he would obtain the appointment for him, and witness said it was absurd to make any offer of the kind, but just as the conversation closed, witness, by way of curiosity, inquired why he did not offer 10*l.* instead of 9*l.*, to which the applicant replied, "that was what my predecessor gave to a gentleman of the name of Reynolds, the member for Dublin." (*Sensation.*) Witness was positive that the name mentioned was that of Mr. Reynolds.

Mr. Reynolds begged to be allowed to make a statement. He was told that the evidence implicating him was not sufficiently advanced to permit of it. He then said, "whenever the committee decide upon examining me, I shall be perfectly prepared to contradict, in the most unqualified terms, all the reports that have been circulated to my prejudice."

#### THE WAR FLEET SETS SAIL.

ENGLAND has sent off the first division of the Baltic fleet, under Admiral Sir Charles Napier. It set out from Spithead on Saturday, Queen Victoria first bidding farewell to her admirals and captains, and leading her war-ships to sea.

The weather was very fine, and the wind, as if favouring the enterprise, blew steadily from the west. The first scene of the day took place in the Guildhall of Portsmouth, where the corporate authorities presented an address to Sir Charles Napier, trusting that his ships would produce such an impression on the mind of the Emperor—"the common enemy of Europe"—as to make him abandon his aggression:

"Great indeed is the responsibility which rests on you, and great are the expectations and anxieties with which the British people will be filled while you are engaged in the difficult and perhaps perilous duties to which your Queen and country call you. In those duties may the God of battles aid and prosper you; and may the combined force under your control, fighting in cordial union in a righteous cause, succeed in materially assisting to bring the warfare to a speedy and decisive issue!"

"You, and the equally brave and gallant men who will rally round you, will have the earnest aspirations not only of the inhabitants of this borough, but of the whole people of the United Kingdom. We wish you 'God speed!' and pray that the war which has been thus needlessly forced upon Europe may eventually result in a still more lasting peace, check the barbarous policy of aggression, and promote the civilisation of the world."

When the cheering had subsided, Sir Charles replied in these terms:

"Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen—When I tell you that I have had only twenty-four hours to get ready to go afloat, you will not be surprised if I decline to make a long speech; however, I beg to thank you for this very kind and handsome address. I believe it is not usual when a man goes abroad to have addresses of this kind presented to him, but all I can say is this—that I will do the best I can to prevent the British flag from being tarnished. I know a great deal is expected from the fleet, but, gentlemen, you must not expect too much. (*Cheers.*) We are going to meet no common enemy; we are going to meet an enemy well prepared. I am sure every officer and man in the fleet will do his duty gloriously; but, at the same time, I warn you again that you must not expect too much. (*Cheers.*) The fleet is a new one; the system of warfare is new; great consideration is required to ascertain how it is best to manage a fleet urged by steam. The system of warfare is entirely different now to what it was formerly; but we will do our best, and I am sure I shall remember to the last day of my life the kindness of the people of Portsmouth." (*Loud cheers.*)

With great difficulty, Sir Charles made his way to the pier, hung with the flags of England, France, the

United States, and Austria (!). [Where was Prussia?] The sympathising crowd thronged around him, cheering him as he passed, and a patriotic person insisting on making a speech to him just before he embarked on board the *Sprightly* to be conveyed to his sea-castle the *Duke of Wellington*. After much ado he arrived,—not without, however, nearly crushing one of the boats clustered around the great ship, full of anxious wives and sweethearts, bidding their hearty Jack Tar farewell. On the waters there were incessant bursts of cheers, on the shore a great crowd; on the quarter-deck of the flagship, the admiral walking to and fro alone. The *Duke of Wellington* was prepared for the reception of the Queen, but her Majesty disappointed expectation:

"About a quarter to one o'clock the *Fairy* was observed to leave Cowes, and for a time her signals were narrowly watched from the deck of the flagship. As she neared the fleet, a royal salute blazed from each ship with bewildering effect, "the Duke" setting the example, and being followed immediately by the rest. Hardly had the smoke been rolled off by the west wind, and the roar of the guns died away, when those thrilling cheers which the crews of our navy know so well how to give arose, not from the yard-arms manned in the formal fashion of piping-peace times, but from the rigging, in which the men swarmed like bees, while the Marines presented arms upon each quarter-deck, and the bands on board played the National Anthem. Arrived at the head of the fleet, the *Fairy* signalled that her Majesty would receive the captains of the different ships, instead of herself visiting the *Duke of Wellington*, which seems to have been previously contemplated. In a few minutes they were on their way to the royal yacht, and their boats, added to the other craft afloat, presented a highly animated picture. Sir Charles Napier, with Commodore Seymour, Captain of the Fleet, was foremost in paying his respects to the Sovereign. As he went and came, he was loudly cheered by thousands of spectators from crazy old tubs of steamboats, that rolled about as if they were drunk with the enthusiasm of their living freights. The other admirals and captains followed, and when all were returned, the signal to some of the nearest ships was given to weigh. Then the huge sails were quickly shaken out, and it became apparent that the steam fleet was about to put to sea under canvas alone; and with all the obvious advantages of that hidden power which has done so much to rescue the mariner from the tyranny of the winds and the waves, it must be confessed that, to see ships in their beauty and majesty, the invention of Davelus still bears the palm over that of James Watt. It was nearly two o'clock before the first signal to weigh was given from the huge flagship of the Commander-in-Chief, and by three she herself had left her anchorage. The *St. Jean d'Acres* went first; then the *Tribune*, *Impérieuse*, *Blenheim*, *Amphion*, *Valorous*, *Princess Royal*, *Edinburgh*, *Ajax*, *Arragon*, *Dragon*, and *Hogue*, in the order stated. The *Royal George* and the *Duke of Wellington* followed, the clear sunlight brightening up their canvases as they glided majestically onwards. Last of all came the *Leopard*, under steam like the rest of the paddle-wheel squadron, while the screws all weighed under single-reefed topsails, topgallant-sails, jib and driver. No strict order of departure was observed until the ships had got sufficiently on their way to have ample searoom for forming double line, which they did standing to the south-east in the following order:

Starboard line.	Port line.
Duke of Wellington.	Edinburgh.
St. Jean d'Acres.	Hogue.
Royal George.	Blenheim.
Princess Royal.	Ajax.
Impérieuse.	Tribune.
Arrogant.	Amphion.

The paddleships by themselves—

Leopard.	Valorous.	Dragon.
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The spectacle presented by this division of the Baltic fleet as it quitted Spitehead was one which will not readily be forgotten by those who witnessed it. The *Fairy*, having accompanied the first part of the division for several miles, was stopped, and the Queen, with a regular flotilla of boats and steamers around her yacht, saw ship after ship under easy sail pass by to fight the battles of the country. Each crew mounted once more into the rigging to give her a round of parting hurrahs, and topgallantsails were lowered—that mask of respect which the navy itself receives from the mercantile marine. When the *Duke of Wellington* approached the royal yacht, the rest of the fleet were already dim and faint in the distance. Though under no press of canvas, the brisk west wind had carried them well out to sea, the *Royal George* fitly closing in the receding line with her huge hull and spreading sails. The crew of the flagship had now in their turn to give their farewell cheers. They sprang up the rigging with astonishing rapidity, not stopping according to custom at the cross-trees, but mounting upwards until the most adventurous spirits had reached the very summits, for the honour of possessing which they struggled. One daring fellow coolly seated himself upon the truck of the main-topmast, where, with one hand he waved his cap in cheering, while he held the other arm extended, to show that he was unsupported. The hurrahs from the crew of the *Duke of Wellington* at bidding farewell to their Queen and country will long ring in the ears of all who heard them. Her Majesty stood waving her handkerchief towards the mighty ship as she departed, and for a long time after the whole fleet had gone the royal yacht remained motionless, as if the illustrious occupants desired to linger over a spectacle calculated to impress them so profoundly.

At Dover a great crowd collected to see the fleet pass; and about three o'clock on Sunday it swept magnificently by, and proceeded to the Downs. Thence it steamed on Monday for Wingo Sound, a Swedish port, to watch the Cattegat, and, when the hour comes, to enter the Baltic.

While they were in the Downs the *Hecla*, exploring ship, returning from the Baltic, fell in with the fleet, and transferred to the various ships the masters and second masters who have taken part in the sounding expedition.

The list of ships of this division, to be hereafter strongly reinforced, may again be stated; premising that not one is dependent alone upon steam, but, as we have seen, able to use sails when needed. The fleet, then, comprises eight screw line-of-battle ships, four screw, and four paddle-wheel ships of inferior rank, making a total of sixteen war-steamer; of which two—the *Duke of Wellington* and the *Royal George*—are three-deckers, while three carry Admirals' flags—Sir Charles Napier's in the *Duke*, Admiral Chads' in the *Edinburgh*, and Admiral Plombridge's in the *Leopard*:

#### SCREW LINE-OF-BATTLE SHIPS.

	Guns.	Men.	Horse-power.
The Duke of Wellington	181	1100	780
The Royal George	121	930	400
The St. Jean d'Acres	101	900	650
The Princess Royal	91	850	400
The Blenheim	60	660	450
The Hogue	60	660	450
The Ajax	58	630	450
The Edinburgh	58	630	450
	680	6420	4030

#### SCREW FRIGATES.

	Guns.	Men.	Horse-power.
The Impérieuse	50	530	360
The Arrogant	47	450	360
The Amphion	34	320	300
The Tribune	30	300	300
	161	1600	1320

#### PADDLE-WHEELS.

	Guns.	Men.	Horse-power.
The Leopard	18	280	560
The Dragon	6	200	560
The Bulldog	6	160	500
Valorous	16	220	400
	46	860	2020

Rear-Admiral Corry embarked on board his flagship, the *Neptune*, 120, Captain Hutton, on Thursday, from the *Sprightly* steamer, at eight o'clock, and at a quarter-past ten her Majesty came up to Spithead in the *Fairy*, to accompany the *Neptune* and *Bulldog*, 6, paddle-wheel frigate, Captain Hall, out to sea on their leaving to join Sir Charles Napier's fleet. These two vessels weighed anchor at half-past 11, the *Neptune* going away under royals, topgallant sails, topsails, foresails, and jib, and the *Bulldog* under steam. All the ships at Spithead saluted her Majesty as she came up. The *Fairy* followed astern of the *Neptune* as far as St. Helen's, and then, by command of the Queen, the signal "Farewell" was run up at the *Fairy's* mast, which the *Neptune* acknowledged by manning, rigging, giving three cheers, and dipping colours. On the Queen's departure the *Neptune* set all her starboard studding sails, and went away in splendid style with a fair wind and beautiful weather. She has never before been to sea.

Sir Richard England and Sir De Lacy Evans have been appointed to the command of divisions in the expedition to the East, which will include a division of cavalry mustering 2000 sabres, and placed under the command of the Earl of Lucan, the Earl of Cardigan commanding the light, and Colonel Scarlett the heavy brigade.

Sir Charles Napier's fleet is bound first for Wingo Sound, on the coast of Sweden, where the ships will anchor for a time. In that position the fleet would guard the outlet of the Cattegat, and enjoy the advantages of being near a great town like Gothenburg, with its population of nearly 30,000 souls. The next step would be to pass the Sound or the Great Belt, and enter the Baltic.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mundy, Assistant Quarter-Master General at Kilkenny, has been appointed Military Secretary for War and the Colonies.

The Guards and the other regiments have had a splendid passage to Malta, and the special correspondent of the *Times* who went out in the *Ripon* has given a lively and hearty British account of the voyage. The ships that have arrived are the *Ripon*, *Ornoco*, *Manila*, *Himalaya*, *Vulcan*, and *Emu*. The 77th left Liverpool on Friday in the *Kangaroo*, and the 4th left Plymouth on Tuesday in the *Golden Fleece*. Twenty-seven sailing ships and six steamers are rapidly fitting out in the river for the transport of the cavalry.

#### TRADE WITH RUSSIA.

The following important letter has been published:

Gentlemen,—In reply to your letter of the 24th of February, requesting to be informed whether, in the event of war between this country and Russia, Russian goods imported from neutral ports would be considered contraband or would be admissible into England?

I am directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade to inform you that, in the event of war every indirect attempt to carry on trade with the enemy's country will be illegal; but, on the other hand, *bona fide*

trade, not subject to the objections above-stated, will not become illegal merely because the articles which form the subject matter of that trade were originally produced in an enemy's country.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,  
J. EMERSON TENNESSE.  
Messrs. Martin, Levin, and Adler.

#### CONTINENTAL NOTES.

An imperial decree nominates Marshal Vaillant Minister of War in the room of Marshal St. Arnaud, appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Eastern expedition.

In its non-official columns the *Moniteur* gives a complete list of the composition of the staff of the army of the East. The list occupies five columns of that paper. The following are the principal names:

Commander-in-Chief—Marshal de St. Arnaud, with ten aides-de-camp, and officers d'ordonnance.

Head of the General Staff—General de Martimpré.

Sous-Chef—Lieutenant-Colonel Jarras. 1st Division. Commandant—General Cabrolet. 1st Brigade—Major-General Espinasse. 2nd Brigade—Major-General Vimy. 2nd Division. Commandant—General Bosquet. 1st Brigade—Major-General d'Autemarre. 2nd Brigade—Major-General Bonat. Brigade of Cavalry. Major-General d'Alouville. Corps de Reserve. Commandant—General Prince Napoleon. Reserve of Artillery—Lieutenant-Colonel Boujou. Reserve of Engineers—Colonel Guerin. Besides this there is a numerous commissariat, medical staff, &c. Division of the Reserve. Commandant—General Forey. 1st Brigade of Infantry—Major-General de Lourmel. 2nd Brigade of Infantry—Major-General d'Aurelle. Brigade of Cavalry—Major-General Cassagnolle. Artillery—Colonel de Tryon. Engineer—Colonel de St. Laurent.

The title of "Corps de Reserve," it is semi-officially stated, has been conferred by the Emperor upon this portion of the army, in order to enhance the importance of Prince Napoleon's command, but by no means in the sense of the corps being kept out of active operations. On the contrary, it is to be employed from the very commencement of the campaign; and for this purpose the regiments which compose it will be among the first to embark for Turkey.

The *avant-garde* of the army of the East, comprising two battalions of the Chasseurs de Vincennes and a force of artillery, engineers, and sappers, is now ready to sail from Toulon. The whole of the first division of the allied army is expected to be on its way to Turkey by the end of the present month, and the entire expedition will be assembled in Turkey towards the middle of April.

The French fleet intended for service in the Baltic will consist of nine sail of the line and several frigates. For the present, being occupied in the Mediterranean, it will be only represented in the Baltic by the Austrian line-of-battle ship. At a later period the squadron of Admiral Parseval Deschenes will join the fleet of Admiral Napier.

The *Moniteur* of Sunday last, announcing the departure of the Duke of Saxe Coburg Gotha for Germany via Brussels, adds the following complimentary address:—"His Royal Highness, who has gained during his visit here the confidence and affection of the Emperor, carries with him the regards of all those who have approached him." The same number of the *Moniteur* announces the arrival in Paris of his Highness the Prince of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, on a confidential mission from his Majesty the King of Prussia to the Emperor of the French.

The object of this special mission was it seems to afford explanations on the subject of Prussia's neutrality, and, if feasible, to hint at a project of mediation on the basis of a common protectorate of the Christians in Turkey by the Five Powers, and the opening of the Black Sea to all nations. "But" (says the Paris letter of the *Times*) "it is certain that neither the project, of whatever kind it may be, nor the explanations, were found satisfactory; and while Prince Hohenzollern was proceeding to urge them, the Emperor took hold of his hand, shook it in a very friendly manner, and said, 'Prince, I am most happy to see you as a friend, but, as respects the object of your mission, I have only to say it is too late.'

The following particulars respecting the two recent visitors of Louis Napoleon may be found interesting.—The Duke Ernest of Saxe-Coburg Gotha is the reigning Sovereign of the Duchy, having succeeded his father on the 29th February, 1844; he married the Princess Alexandrine, daughter of the late Grand Duke Leopold of Baden, sister of the reigning Grand Duke of Baden. He has no children. He is the elder brother of our Prince Consort. Prince Charles of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen belongs to the royal house of Prussia. In 1848 he succeeded Prince Charles, his father, in virtue of a cession which the latter made to him of his principality. In 1849 he abdicated in favour of the King of Prussia, who granted him the title of highness, with the prerogatives of a prince of the royal house; he is a lieutenant-general in the Prussian service. He married in 1854 the Princess Josephine, daughter of the late Grand Duke Charles Louis of Baden and the Grand Duchess Stephanie, and became by that alliance the cousin of the Emperor Napoleon III.

The following are the chief terms of the decree for the National French loan of 250,000,000 francs. (10,000,000 £), as decided by the Minister of Finance:—

"Art. 1. From the 14th to the 25th of March, 1854, the public will be admitted to subscribe for the loan of 250 millions authorised by the law of March 11, 1854. Registers of subscription will be placed at Paris at the Treasury, and in the departments, in every chief town of department and arrondissement, at the office of the receivers-general of taxes. They will be opened on the 14th of March, at nine in the morning, and closed on the 25th of the same month, at six in the evening. Art. 2. The subscribers will be allowed to choose between the 4½ per Cents. (creation of March 14, 1852) and the 8 per Cents. Art. 3. The 4½ per cent. rents to be issued at the rate of 92£ 50c., with interest from March 22, 1854; that is to say, that the subscriber, in

undertaking to pay into the treasury the sum of 92f. 50c. at the periods stipulated in Art. 5, below given, will receive a yearly sum of 2f. 50c., which, notwithstanding the delay in the payment of the subscription, will run in its integrity from March 22, 1854. The 3 per cent. rente will be issued at the quotations of 65f. 25c., with interest from December 22, 1853. Art. 4. Subscriptions can be admitted only for 10f. of rente and the multiples of 10f.

This democratization of the funds, as the *Séole* calls well it, by throwing the loan open to the people directly, instead of concentrating it in the hands of a few intermediary capitalists, has proved eminently successful, and has undoubtedly contributed to the popularity of the Government, while it manifests the national character of the war with Russia. As early as 7 in the morning of the 14th, the Ministry of Finance was besieged with intending *rentiers*. At noon the queue formed by the subscribers under 1000f. rente exceeded 2000 persons. At the Imperial printing-office the men are employed all night in striking off the necessary vouchers and coupons.

The pressure of the crowd at the appointed registries was so excessive that it was found necessary to permit inscriptions at all the *Mairies* in Paris. The employés of *La Presse*, wishing to set the example to its readers, subscribed towards the National Loan a sum of 65,250f. The Corporation of the Notaries of Paris subscribed 1,600,000f. and the crowd 350,000f.

In the departments the same eagerness prevailed; notably at Amiens, Havre, Bordeaux, Marseilles. One prefect, in the department of *L'Oise*, forgetting M. Talleyrand's famous admonition, "Mais surtout point de zèle," addressed a stimulating appeal to the mayors and other functionaries under his jurisdiction, calling upon them to set an example to the people by subscribing their 'capital, or their savings.' This zealous prefect has been properly disavowed for having "misconceived the intentions of the Government," which was anxious that the subscriptions should be a perfectly free and spontaneous national demonstration.

The *Gazette de Flandres*, another Legitimist journal, has received a first warning for publishing an article "contrary to the national honour, and conceived in a spirit eminently hostile to the grand and patriotic manifestations of public opinion."

Notwithstanding the war, the preparations for the Grand Exhibition are actively continued. As Prince Napoleon, the President of the Commission, is about to leave France on foreign service, it is expected that the Minister of State will succeed him.

The new Lilliputian gold five-franc pieces are in great favor in Paris, especially with the ladies, and one of the ingenious artists who abound in Paris has invented a *portefeuille*, of correspondingly small dimensions, to contain them. It is attached to the finger by a ring, and stows away fifty or sixty francs in gold, in the same space that would be occupied by one silver franc.

Among the most recent publications of interest in Paris we may cite the first volumes of the works of Arago, with a charming introductory memoir by his early and constant friend and brother in science, Alexander Von Humboldt. The political and economical papers of Armand Carrel have also been collected and arranged, judiciously annotated by M. Charles Remy, and preceded by a biographical notice from the pen of M. Littré. These papers throw a new light on the high qualities of that chivalrous and devoted republican journalist, of whom Chateaubriand said—"That flannel waistcoat of Armand Carrel, pierced by a bullet, has a very different value in my eyes to the threadbare coat of a Peer of France."

The pamphlet *Guerre à la Russie* has sold considerably.

The state of feeling in Prussia may be judged from the following indications:—While the most eminent members of the reactionary party in Prussia, who look up to the Czar as the mainstay of the monarchical principle in Europe, are signing an address to the King, praying him to go hand in hand with Russia, and to rely on the loyalty of Prussia, the deputies from the Baltic provinces of Prussia to the Second Chamber of that state have been so alarmed by the inclination towards Russia betrayed by the Berlin Cabinet, that they met on the 8th, and drew up a memorandum for presentation to the Foreign Minister, setting forth the great damage to the commerce and agricultural interests of Prussia which must ensue from a policy contrary to that of the Western Powers.

In reply to the interpellations in the Second Chamber, M. de Manteufel stated that "the Government would hereafter make communications to the Chamber, to show that it had not deviated from its policy." The fleets which have entered the Black Sea belong to Powers with which Prussia lives in peace and good understanding." Count Poutalas, attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and who was in London on a special mission, has separated himself from the Government. The moderate Conservative party, decidedly national and anti-Russian, has also broken with the Government on account of its weak and vacillating attitude.

In Austria, the *Lloyd*, so distinguished of late for advocating an Austrian policy, and proclaiming the necessity of opposing Russia, if need be, in the field, was suspended by the Government on the 10th instant for a week. These articles of the *Lloyd* had, especially irritated the Czar, who not long ago said to the Austrian ambassador, "What do you mean by such provoking and irritating attacks? If the intention is to repudiate the Russian alliance, tell us so frankly and boldly. I prefer a precise and intelligible policy; but when the day of revolutionary danger comes, you must not be astonished to see Russia limit herself to keeping away from all contact, and refuse to shed the blood of her children and expend her treasure to save her neighbours!" Hence a reprimand, and subsequently the suspension. The editor of the *Lloyd*, M. Warren, promises his subscribers a pamphlet on the Eastern Question, as a compensation for the omitted numbers of his journal. We need scarcely say that this suspension will immensely increase the circulation of the *Lloyd*.

From St. Petersburg, under date the 6th inst., we learn, that

the *Gazette of the Senate* publishes an imperial ukase ordering the immediate issue of notes for a sum of six million silver roubles. It publishes at the same time the ordinance prohibiting the export of cereals from Odessa and other ports of the Black Sea.

Five imperial ukases, dated March the 5th, declare not only St. Petersburg and the Baltic provinces, but certain other "governments," comprising a vast semi-circle from the Black to the White Sea, in a state of siege. These Governments are those of Ekatherinoslav (including the arondissement of Taganrog), of St. Petersburg, Esthonia, Livonia, Archangel, Courland, Kowno, Wilna, Grodno, Volhynia, Podolia, and the whole kingdom of Poland.

The Government of St. Petersburg is placed under the authority of the Grand Duke, heir to the throne, Commander-in-Chief of the Guards and Grenadiers, with the prerogatives accorded to the Commander-in-Chief of the Army.

General Rudiger to command in Poland and the adjacent governments during the absence of Field-Marshal Prince Paskiewitsch on his inspection of the positions of the army on the Danube and in the south of the empire. General Gortshakoff, and, under him, General Osten-Sacken, to extend their authority over the governments adjacent to the Principalities.

The Russian Government is making extraordinary levies of seamen. A recent ukase obliges all the sons of free sailors who are employed in the merchant navy to serve fifteen years in the Imperial navy from the date of the said ukase. Boys fifteen years old are to enter the service immediately, and those only eight years of age are to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-General of Cronstadt, who is to send them to nautical schools lately established. The armament of the forts of Cronstadt has been increased by several batteries on the island at the water level, and the garrison by a supplementary force of 12,000 men drafted from the imperial guards. Three ships (partly propelled by steam), of 80 guns each, have been commissioned, to join the first division of the Baltic fleet, which is to be raised to twenty-seven or twenty-eight vessels. 200 gun-boats, on the model of those which are in the Cronstadt channel, are ordered to be constructed with the greatest activity at Vyborg, Abo, and Sveaborg (the Gibraltar of the Baltic).

On the 28th ult. the Czar visited the fortifications of Cronstadt, accompanied by his son the Czarowitch and hereditary Grand Duke Alexander.

A private letter from Memel, dated the 4th inst., states that a service of special *casafettes* has been organised for the province of Baltic Russia, with which an uninterrupted exchange of couriers is kept up. The garrisons of Helsingfors, Sveaborg, Frederikshamn, Rotschensalm have been greatly augmented. That of Sveaborg has been reinforced to the amount of 10,000 men. An Aide-de-Camp of the Emperor, a general officer, has been despatched with orders to inspect all the coasts on this side of the Gulf of Finland. He first proceeds to Revel, where a part of the Russian fleet has been laid up for the winter, and he is charged with the duty of providing the promptest and the surest means of placing it in safety from a *coup de main* of the Anglo-French squadron. Other general officers of the engineers and artillery have also received the mission to urge on the completion of the works in the military ports, and the fortresses of the coast.

The same interesting letter refers to the religious character given to the war by Russia. "Thus the Greek Cross appears everywhere as the sanctifying symbol of the present war, and on every side we hear the words repeated of 'Orthodox Faith,' 'Holy Confidence,' 'Holy Russia,' &c. Texts from the Holy Scripture have come to be mingled with the jargon of the fashionable saloons. The Emperor himself adopts them in conversation of the most ordinary kind, and in all his public addresses, and he appears struck with the monomania of preaching and haranguing to all about him in a manner that is truly ridiculous. Very recently, and in presence of his whole Court, he delivered a sort of sermon, which terminated nearly with the following words:—'Russia, whose destinies God has especially intrusted to me, is menaced. But wo, wo, wo, to those who menace us. We shall know how to defend the honour of the Russian name, and the inviolability of our frontier. Following in the path of my predecessors—faithful, like them, to the Orthodox Faith—after having invoked, like them, the aid of the Almighty God—we shall await our enemies with a firm foot, and from what side soever they come, persuaded that our ancient device, 'The Faith, the Czar, and the Country,' will open to us, as it has ever done, the path of victory. *Nobiscum Deus!* *Audite populi, et vincimini; quia nobiscum Deus!*" The Imperial Court was astounded; it never suspected that the Czar possessed this biblical erudition, and could scarcely contain its astonishment. It never suspected that his Majesty was so profoundly versed in Scripture or in the Latin fathers."

The Czar is described as having become sombre and morose to an intolerable degree. The result is a state of exasperation which he can scarcely keep within bounds even in the presence of the foreign ministers. Another private letter says that he has been troubled with erysipelas in the legs, but that in spite of the advice of his physicians he persists in wearing his military boots. From the frontiers of Poland (March 9) we learn that several moveable parks of artillery, attached to the reserve, have marched for the Danube. The frontier towns of the kingdom are left without any regular troops, and none remain but veterans and Cossacks.

A telegraphic despatch from Hamburg reports that "several sail of the English Fleet" were signalled at Copenhagen, on the 14th inst., and that a frigate had anchored before the city. The latter portion of this despatch is possible, but the signals of the fleet must have been a false alarm, since Admiral Napier's division left the Downs only on the afternoon of the 13th. Besides his orders do not take him to Copenhagen in the first instance.

The Swedish Government has ordered the fitting-out of seven line-of-battle ships, with crews amounting to 2807 men. Prince Oscar had gone to Carlsskrona, to visit the fleet. Two camps are to be formed, one at Carlsskrona, and

the other to the north of the capital. The garrison of the island of Gotland, inclusive of the local militia, is to amount to 16,000 men.

A Swedish journal publishes a letter of Lord Clarendon to the Swedish Chargé d'Affaires at London on the subject of the declaration of neutrality of Sweden and Denmark. The letter expresses the satisfaction felt by the British Government at this declaration, and states that England is ready to support the neutral position of Sweden by every means in her power. A similar declaration has been made at Copenhagen.

The correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*, at Stockholm, speaks of a private note from the Czar to the King of Sweden, and of Russian *arygments*, such as those used in 1812 (*Dieu merci il prend de l'argent!*) and in 1822-23, to "convert the present movement," and the spontaneous granting of supplies, into a "mere dynastic money-bag," and to bind over Sweden to a position of absolute and forced neutrality: in other words, to be the ally of the Czar against her own country. We doubt, however, of the success of such an anti-national intrigue, even if it were attempted.

The Danish fleet is composed of five ships of the line of 84 guns each, five frigates of 48 guns, and a great number of gun-boats.

A political crisis seems imminent in Denmark. In the sitting of the 6th, Bishop Monrad asked the Ministry if they intended to grant the constitution without the co-operation of the Diet? The Prime Minister declined to give an answer. In the evening the Deputies, having again assembled, presented an address to the King, demanding the maintenance of the existing constitution and the dismissal of the Ministry. On the 13th, the two Chambers, united, adopted the address almost unanimously.

The latest advices from Constantinople speak of the snow still lying deep in the Asiatic provinces. The Turkish forces in Asia have been re-organised and reinforced by successive convoys, but there is still something to be desired in unity of command. The combined fleets were in Beikos Bay on the 5th inst. The *Fury* and the *Vindom* returned on the 2nd, the authorities at Sebastopol having refused to receive their despatches.

Dr. Faivel, the French physician, brought a favourable report of the sanitary condition of the Turkish army on the Danube. Two Russian ships-of-war had appeared off Varna in the absence of the combined fleets. A strong force had sailed to Salonica to repress the Greek insurgents. The Defenders of the Cross, says a letter from Jassy, commit dreadful excesses. At the theatre in that town, aided by the Russian treasury, the "popular" drama of the "Victory of Sinope" was announced.

There has been a Russian expedition to the right bank of the Danube near Ibraia.

The guns of a Turkish battery had several times driven back a Russian flotilla, which it was of importance to conduct from Reni to Galatz. The Russians crossed over in considerable force, and attacked the battery by land. The conflict was very severe, and lasted several hours, and the loss of killed and wounded was on both sides considerable. Having engaged the Turks until a large convoy of gunboats, escorting transports laden with war material had, passed up the river, and had got out of the range of the batteries, hastily withdrew, without waiting to destroy the Turkish fortifications or spike the guns.

The Greek, Wallachian, and Bulgarian volunteers, who were to form a Christian corps, and aid the Russians, have deserted by dozens. As many as six have been shot at Galatz in one morning.

The Sultan has decreed the formation of two new armies, each of 30,000 regular troops, 15,000 irregular, and a train of 45 guns to each pacha.

The officers of the *Vulcan* observed not less than 10,000 men at work, throwing up fortifications at Sebastopol. The Russians are alarmed at the prospect of their boasted impregnable arsenals being taken in reverse.

On the 3rd inst., the French and English Ambassadors had an audience of King Otho, promising assistance in case the insurgents should foment disturbances in the Greek territory. The King engaged to observe a strict neutrality, and expressed a hope that there would be no necessity for aid. Reshid Pacha has addressed reproofs to the Greek Minister in Turkey, and demanded satisfaction under a threat of reprisals. Fuad Pachetti is appointed Dictator in Albania.

The excitement in Athens and in the Greek provinces has subsided, since it has become evident that, if necessary, the great Powers will interfere, and in Epirus the insurrection has no chance of success. On the 27th of February the garrison of Arta made a sally, and inflicted a serious loss on the besiegers. The Greek troops which have joined the insurgents may amount to 500. Emissaries are extremely active in the Morea, but have hitherto met with little success. The English and French vessels now at Preveza took provisions for the garrison of that city, which is in no danger. The citadel of Arta was in the hands of the Turks on the 3rd, and is likely to remain so. Janina is well provided with all the necessities for a vigorous defence.

It is believed that the Porte decidedly objects to the occupation, even temporary, of any portion of European Turkey by Austrian troops on the plea of putting down insurrections, and that the Prince of Servia has hinted to the Austrian General that the Servians are not likely to consent to see their territory invaded.

A letter from Varna, in the *Times*, contains the following passage:—"A report of the speeches of Mears, Cobden and Bright at the Manchester meeting has arrived here. To any person practically acquainted with Turkey on the spot, they are a mass of fallacies, showing extraordinary ignorance of the subject. One would think that these speeches were made fifteen years ago, when the empire was in all the travail of her national difficulties, with the great work of her unfedding revolution not yet begun, her armies an untutored horde, and justice to the Christian population not yet recognised as a sound maxim of policy by her leading statesmen. Doubtless Turkey is still terribly behind

in roads, posts, and many other institutions. But Messrs. Cobden and Bright do not see that Turkey had, twelve months ago, at last arrived at domestic tranquillity, and was just entering on a rapid career of internal improvement, to which the invasion of her territory has put a full stop. The railway from Varna to Rustchuk was in everybody's mouth. The line to Adrianople, Philippopolis, &c., was actually decided on and the surveys in progress. Is it possible to avoid laughing at the anomalies which the history of this question has presented from first to last? Peace was the policy of Turkey, war was the policy of Russia, and yet the great Apostle of Peace falls foul of Turkey at the very period when she is beginning to cease to be a reproach to the civilised world for lawless barbarism."

A correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*, writing on the 2nd inst., says that a grand attack of the Russians on Matschin was fixed for the 13th inst.

Baron Brunow is expected to join M. de Kisseloff at Brussels.

M. de la Cour is appointed Ambassador of France to Naples, in the place of M. de Maupas.

M. Isturitz is expected at Madrid from London on the 20th inst. The present state of Spain is thus described by the correspondent of the *Times*, at Madrid:—"The Queen, desirous of extending her prerogatives, to the destruction of the Constitution she has sworn to observe, is half frightened, half weary of the struggle, and trembling on the brink of a precipice. The Queen-Mother, seeing the danger, would fain conjure it, by her own instruments, whom she arrays in opposition to the more liberal party, composed of most of the best men of the old Moderados and Progressistas, her antagonism to whom mainly arises from her fear of Espartero, who she thinks would send her out of the country if he were in power, but who would more probably satisfy himself with requesting her to fix her residence in a provincial town. The Opposition, every day more united, serries its ranks and bides its time."

The only broad classification to be at present made of parties in Spain is into those who desire to retain constitutional government (or I should rather say to recover it), and those who are ready to lend themselves to its abolition and to the restoration of absolute monarchy, based upon a similar system to that at present existing in France. The latter party is unquestionably much the less numerous of the two, and probably its chief representatives are the men at present in power."

The same writer indicates Espartero, who has been so long living in profound retirement at Logrono, as the only man capable of rallying the scattered elements of patriotism in Spain. Colonel Latorre, of the disbanded regiment, was shot at Saragossa on the 6th inst.

A letter from Naples gives an account of a grand fancy ball which was given by the Court on Shrove-Tuesday. The greater part of the Ministers and Ambassadors had adopted the costumes of the great historical personages of the latter centuries of the French monarchy—M. de Maupas was dressed as Coligny, and the Minister of War as the great Condé. A curious incident is related of Count Balzo, cousin to the husband of the Queen-Mother, who, having dressed himself as a Calabrese brigand, and appeared before the King in that costume, was immediately ordered to withdraw and put on another costume. Some suppose that the King feared in this costume an offence to the Bonaparte family, remembering the treatment of Murat by the Calabrians.

The mission of Prince Lucien Napoleon to Italy is kept secret by the French Government. He is believed to be commissioned to confer with the Piedmontese Government as to the dispositions of France towards Italy under certain eventualities of the coming war.

The United States corvette *St. Louis* has been to Naples to settle the Carbone case; but the Neapolitan Government anticipated the difficulty by releasing the American citizen. The United States frigate *Saratoga* was at Genoa on the 8th. Cosenza has been visited twice with an earthquake. An eruption of Vesuvius is expected.

A regular battle took place at Coimbra, in Portugal, during the carnival, between the "town and gown" men, in which several were killed and many wounded.

The Spanish bishops, like those of France, have taken alarm at the turning and speaking tables. The Archbishop of Toledo has just published a pastoral letter exhorting and commanding the clergy and faithful to have nothing to do with them.

For several days past it has been stated that the question of the suppression of the existing journals in Paris and the departments, with some exceptions, was actually discussed in the Council of Ministers. Besides the *Moniteur*, two journals only would be allowed for Paris, and one for each of the departments. This proposition was thrown out by a small minority, and one version is, that the Emperor, who presided at the Council, gave no opinion, while another is that he opposed it. This rumour is almost incredible, for, with the exception of the Legitimist press, never was the tone of the independent French press more dignified, moderate, and national than at the present moment, and never was the support of public opinion more necessary to the Government.

The subscriptions for the new loan are on so extensive a scale, that it is now calculated that instead of ten millions sterling, the amount of money tendered will reach to fully twenty millions.

The police at Cologne seized, on the 12th, 16 waggon laden with arms coming from Liege.

Mademoiselle Rachel is expected in Paris in the course of next month, when she will come to a definite understanding with the *Théâtre Français*. A new *débutante* in the leading tragic parts is announced to appear under the name of Mademoiselle Darde. This lady was formerly on the stage.

The Emperor of Russia becoming journalist is undoubtedly a homage to the power of the press and to public opinion. But it is no honour to the press that the Imperial pen should never dip in printer's ink for any other purpose than for

making the worse appear the better reason, and for consecrating violence with falsehood, and cruelty with fraud.

The public at St. Petersburg having shown symptoms of coldness towards the French comedians in that city, they have been promised by the Emperor his special protection, not only "for their persons but for their talents."

The elephants recently performing at Astley's have been very successful in Paris.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* of the 3rd publishes, in a supplement extraordinary, a circular addressed by the Russian Cabinet to all the ambassadors and diplomatic agents of the Emperor of Russia, giving an account of the negotiations on the Eastern question, and justifying, according to the opinion of the Russian Cabinet, all its proceedings. The circular fills not less than 17 columns of the *Journal de St. Petersburg*, and is ten times as long as that prepared by M. Drouyn de Lhuys for the French Government with a similar object. The greatest part of the Russian circular, however, consists of a history of the Eastern affair, interspersed with arguments which have all been brought forward in the notes of Count Nesselrode and the letter of the Emperor of Russia, published in the French and English journals. Throughout this historical review the desire for peace and the moderation of the Emperor of Russia are spoken of, and he is represented as having been constantly thwarted by doubts, suspicion, and distrust, which he had done nothing to deserve; and it is endeavoured to make the world believe that the Eastern question has been brought to the state in which it now is, not by any refusal on the part of the Czar to make all the concessions which were compatible with his honour and dignity, but by the want of confidence in his declarations evinced by the French and English Governments.

#### DEATH OF MR. JUSTICE TALFOURD.

ANOUR six years ago the news was telegraphed to Mr. Sergeant Talfourd, at the Stafford Assizes, that he had been raised to a seat on the Bench. On Monday the news was telegraphed from Stafford to London that Mr. Justice Talfourd had died suddenly while delivering his opening charge. Early that morning he had taken his usual walk, and seemed as well as usual. Both courts opened at ten o'clock that morning. Mr. Justice Talfourd presided in the Crown Court. He had reviewed the calendar, and was directing attention to the number of charges of highway robbery which it contained.

"These crimes," he said, "come—I will not say exclusively, but in the far greater majority of these cases—from those districts which are the most rich in mineral treasures, where wages are high, and where no temptation of want can for a moment be set up as an excuse or palliation for the crime; on the contrary, I have observed in the experience I have had of the calendars of prisoners tried at these assizes—an experience, many of you are aware, extending far beyond the period of my judicial labours—I have observed that in times of comparative privation crime diminishes, and that when wages are high and are earned by a less degree of work there is a strong temptation to spend them in vicious indulgences, and that crime has increased almost in proportion to the state of prosperity by which the criminals have been surrounded. This consideration should awaken all our minds, and especially the minds of gentlemen connected with those districts, to see in what direction to search for a remedy for so great an evil. It is untrue to say that the state of education—that is, such education as can be furnished by the Sunday schools, and other schools in these districts—is below the general average; then we must search among some other causes for the peculiar aspect of crime presented in these cases. I cannot help myself thinking, it may be in no small degree attributable to that separation between class and class which is the great curse of British society, and for which we are all more or less in our respective spheres in some degree responsible, and which is more complete in these districts than in agricultural districts, where the resident gentry are enabled to shed around them the blessings resulting from the exercise of benevolence, and the influence and example of active kindness. I am afraid we all of us keep too much aloof from those beneath us, and whom we thus encourage to look upon us with suspicion and dislike. Even to our servants we think perhaps we fulfil our duty when we perform our contract with them—when we pay them their wages, and treat them with the civility consistent with our habits and feelings—when we curb our temper and use no violent expressions towards them. But how painful is the thought that there are men and women growing up around us, ministering to our comforts and necessities, continually inmates of our dwellings, with whose affections and nature we are as much unacquainted as if they were the inhabitants of some other sphere. This feeling, arising from that kind of reserve peculiar to the English character, does, I think, greatly tend to prevent that mingling of class with class, that reciprocation of kind words and gentle affections, gracious admonitions and kind inquiries, which often more than any book education tend to the culture of the affections of the heart, refinement, and elevation of the character of those to whom they are addressed. And if I were to be asked what is the great want of English society—to mingle class with class—I would say, in one word, the want is the want of sympathy. \* \* \* No doubt the exciting cause in the far larger number of these cases—the exciting cause that every judge has to deplore in every county of this land—is that which was justly called, in the admirable discourse to which I listened yesterday from the sheriff's chaplain, 'the greatest English vice,' which makes us a by-word and a reproach amongst nations, who in other respects are inferior to us, and have not the same noble principles of Christianity to guide and direct them—I mean the vice of drunkenness. No doubt that this, in most of those cases, is the immediate cause, and it is a cause in two ways of the crimes which will come before

you, and especially of the crime of highway robbery; whereas on the one hand it stirs up evil, awakens malice, and kindles the slumbering passions of the human heart, and puts the reason into a state of twilight; so on the other hand, it points out the victim as the person to be robbed by presenting temptations to those who see him exposing his money in public-house after public-house, or in a state of drunkenness, he finds himself a sharer in a sin from which his partner in that sin, who adds to it another crime, or he is marked out by some of her wicked associates. One great evil of this circumstance is, I think, you will find, looking at the depositions one after the other, that it is the mere repetition of the same story over again—of some man who has gone from public-house to public-house, spending his money and exhibiting his money, and is marked out by those who observed him as the fitting object for plunder, when his senses are obscured, and who is made the subject of an attack under those circumstances which enable the parties to escape from the consequences; because, although the story may be perfectly true which the prosecutor in this case tells—although it may be vividly felt by him—yet he is obliged to confess—

While uttering these noble sentiments his head fell on one side. As soon as possible, Dr. Knight and Dr. Holland gave him help, but in vain. In his scarlet robe he was borne out of the court by six gentlemen, and he breathed his last the moment he was placed on his bed in the judge's lodgings.

Mr. Justice Wightman, presiding in the Civil Court, had hastened to the scene, and, on returning said, his voice scarcely audible from emotion, that it was impossible to proceed with business that day.

Thomas Noon Talfourd was born at Reading in 1793; his father was a brewer, his mother the daughter of a dissenting minister. At the age of 18 he came to London and placed himself under Chitty in 1813. In 1821 he was called to the bar, and the next year he married. Devoted to literature as well as to law, Mr. Talfourd was the author of "Ion," and other plays, besides articles, and one prose volume, called "Vacation Rambles." He sat for Reading in two Parliaments, and was raised to the Bench in 1848. Whatever claim he may have upon the attention of posterity, it will be not for his legal decisions, but for his literature. On the whole, he was a successful life, and his death, though unfortunate, has by its suddenness stamped his name more deeply on the mind.

In charging the Grand Jury at the Derby Assizes, on Wednesday, Mr. Justice Coleridge paid the following well-deserved, appropriate, and feeling tribute to the late Judge:—

"I can hardly part with you without expressing my feelings at the great loss the country, the profession and a large circle of attached friends have sustained in the awful sudden death of my brother Talfourd. He was sitting as I do now, discharging the same duty in which I am engaged, and in the act of addressing the grand jury, when in an instant that eloquent tongue was arrested by the hand of death, and that generous, unselfish heart was cold. Surely nothing can exemplify more strikingly the uncertainty of life. There he was sitting as I am now, administering justice—people were trembling at the thought of having to come before him, but in a minute his function was over, and he was gone to his own account. Gentlemen, as he was the leader of another circuit, and I believe had never visited this as a judge, he was probably not much known to you either at the bar or on the bench. His literary performances yet can scarcely be ignorant of, but, indeed, he was much more than merely a distinguished leader, an eminent judge, or a great ornament of our literature. He had one ruling purpose of his life—the doing good to his fellow-creatures in his generation. He was eminently courteous and kind, generous, simple-hearted, of great modesty, of the strictest honour, and of spotless integrity. I am quite sure that he has left a void that cannot easily be filled up. I could not help alluding to this distressing occurrence, the similarity of my present position and employment brought it so forcibly to my mind. I hope you will excuse the allusion I have made to a loss I feel so deeply. I really could hardly dismiss you without indulging in this expression of what is on my mind."

#### REFORM BILL GATHERINGS.

BRIGHTON, Birmingham, Yarmouth, and Maidstone have declared, in public meeting assembled, that the Reform Bill deserves the hearty support of all true reformers. At the Birmingham meeting, the mayor, Mr. Baldwin, an unimpeachable Radical, presided; and Mr. Scholefield, M.P., spoke to the purpose. He said that both himself and Mr. Muniz entirely and completely repudiated the teachings of their friends of what was called "the Manchester school." (*Immense cheering.*) For admiring, as he did, the great abilities of Mr. John Bright, and not forgetful of his past services in a good cause, he did feel nevertheless that the conduct of that gentleman in many respects, especially with reference to this Reform Bill, came so near to prejudice and political bigotry, that it would not have done much discredit to the other side of the House. It appeared as if that honest gentleman and some of his friends could see nothing but errors, and attribute nothing but unworthy motives to the acts and conduct of the present Government.

In discussing the provisions of the bill he said he disapproved of the minority clause; but he understood that Lord Russell was attached to that part of the scheme, and Mr. Scholefield declared that if the pinch came he would rather swallow the minority clauses than endanger the bill

altogether. (*Cheers*). He was one of those who believed that Ministers were sincerely disposed to carry this measure, and he would be no party to needlessly embarrassing them—(cheers)—if, on the 27th of April, Lord John Russell announced that he would not proceed further with the measure this session, he, for one, should most deeply regret it; but at the same time, neither would he forget the difficulties Ministers had to contend with. There was not only a powerful Opposition, but there were a great many lip reformers in the House who had no fancy for seeing their political existence put an end to. Besides these drawbacks, there was the peculiar responsibility pressing on the Government at the present time; for himself, he should be very glad if reformers were united, they could thrash the Emperor of Russia with one hand, and pass the Reform Bill with the other; but if from any want of support in or out of Parliament Ministers were obliged to postpone the Reform Bill, however much he might regret it, he should bow to their decision, in the full conviction that they were actuated by good motives, and that they needed indulgence in peculiar circumstances in which they were placed. (*Cheers*.)

All the meetings express strong hopes that Government will not abandon the bill.

A public meeting, called and presided over by the High Constable of Brighton, was held on Friday evening at the Town-hall, for the purpose of considering the provisions of Lord John Russell's new Reform Bill. A resolution declaring that Lord John Russell's bill is an important measure of reform, and that it contains objectionable clauses which should be amended in committee, but that the new Reform Bill is fairly entitled to the energetic support of all reformers, was carried.

#### INDIA AND CHINA.

The intelligence brought by the overland mail, yesterday, reaches from the 14th of February from Bombay, and the 27th of January from China.

Very little of importance had occurred in India. Another officer, Captain Barry, has lost his life in Burmah, through the treachery of the natives. He was proceeding with a detachment to suppress a band of robbers; the guides led him into an ambuscade, and he fell pierced by two balls.

The Kohat Pass is again closed, the Afreedes still proving refractory. In the Nizām's country the usual disorder prevails. Captain Orr, with a detachment of infantry, cavalry, and guns, had marched against a post held by a band of plundering Sikhs and Rohillas. The cavalry first came up. On the arrival of the infantry and guns the latter were at once ordered to unlimber and get ready for action, whilst the message was sent in to the Rohillas that they must lay down their arms, or they would be attacked. These decided measures had the desired effect, and after some parley they agreed to the terms offered, and consented to lay down their arms and surrender themselves at discretion. Altogether, between Rohillas, Sikhs, and others, nearly 400 men were thus secured and disarmed. Captain Orr has gained great credit for the spirit, energy, and decision his merits evinced.

The news from China is all conjectural. It is probable that neither Pekin nor the port Tien-kiu have been taken. Shanghai was thought likely to fall into the hands of the Imperialists. It is strange, but nevertheless the fact, that exports from China were never on a larger scale.

A letter from an officer on board the *Cassini*, French war-steamer, gives some interesting details of a visit to Nankin:—

"We met hundreds of boatloads on their way down to reinforce the rebels at Chin-kiang; but they appear to have very few arms of any kind; and the first question on coming on board the *Cassini* was, whether they could buy guns, cutlasses, &c. Hundreds were allowed to come on board in an orderly manner, the chiefs only being allowed to go off the mainmast. It was a curious crowd to see in China. Imagine a crowd of Chinese, with long hair, no pipes, and no hats, dressed, as if for a carnival, in silks and satins of the brightest hue. Such are the rebels, and one can judge that the stores of Nankin must have been well supplied to furnish such multitudes with rich gowns and furs, distributed apparently indiscriminately. . . . The revolution is a stupendous affair, but, so far as I am able to judge, savours more of Mahomedanism than Christianity; in this sense—that it is the Tae-ping who is the Messiah of these fanatics, and it is in him they believe rather than in the crucified Saviour. They have no organised church or ministry, and their worship altogether seems composed of the repetition of certain prayers three times a day. When Tae-ping himself attends to his devotions, ten guns are fired each time to announce the great event to his enthusiastic followers."

M. Bourillon, the French Minister, went on shore. "One of the most curious facts he heard was, that in Nankin were assembled together all the women belonging to Tae-ping's followers, amounting to the immense and almost incredible number of 480,000; but when one considers what large and populous towns they had taken possession of in their progress to Nankin, and that these women are collected from all these places, the rebels fearing to leave their families behind them, the number is probably not much exaggerated. They are divided into brigades of 13,000 each, over which female authorities are placed, the least important having 100 under her command. These women bear the *baton* of office in the

shape of a flexible cane tied together with red silk and forming a sort of switch, which doubtless comes into play pretty often. The chief of the brigade is applied to in case of need, and those holding authority have the privilege of corresponding directly with the princes in any question of moment. They have also female soldiers, and there are places where they have been left as the only garrison in towns of which the rebels have taken possession."

#### THE PRESTON LABOUR-BATTLE.

(From our Correspondent)

Preston, Thursday.

The monster meetings of Saturday and Sunday were held in the open fields beneath the Hoghton Tower, about half-way between Preston and Blackburn, and certainly a more picturesque and convenient spot could not have been selected. A spacious field, bordered by the high road from Preston to Blackburn, was lent for the occasion; the East Lancashire Railway ran along another side, and, above all, towered the fine old feudal ruin, the relic of the castle in which, two centuries and a half ago, Sir Richard Hoghton gave that feast to James the First, at which that "wise simpleton" found nothing more worthy of distinction than a loin of beef. Sir Loin was knighted at Hoghton.

Saturday's meeting was attended by five bands of music, and when the Blackburn operatives (freed from their labours by two o'clock, as is the custom on Saturday afternoons) filed along the high road into the field of meeting, and met their Preston brethren for the first time since the commencement of this memorable struggle, the shout of welcome and congratulation might have been heard miles away. Divesting the incident of all poetry, and viewing it simply as the meeting of several thousands of the poor to hear some very indifferent speaking in the open air, it was no less grand and touching. For those thousands were bound together by a community of purpose—a community which has successfully resisted the extremes of privation during six months. One-half of that multitude has given up its all, upon the faith of support which has been freely rendered out of the slender earnings of the other half, and all for the accomplishment of an object. If the orators were not skilled and elegant, at least they were in earnest, and, right or wrong, were inspired by a profound conviction of the honesty and justice of their cause. The deportment of the multitude was remarkably quiet and orderly, and, after the first shout of welcome, nothing like clamour was to be heard. At Sunday's meeting this discreet self-control was even more conspicuous. As the afternoon was very warm and sunny, I drove to the place of meeting in an open vehicle. All the way from Preston to Hoghton the road was thronged with multitudes as densely as that to Epsom on the Derby day, but all so quiet and peaceful, as if they were going to church. From Blackburn, and through Blackburn, from the remotest corners of East Lancashire, yet vaster multitudes were pressing towards Hoghton in an opposite direction. When I arrived at the place of meeting, it was thronged by an immense and still increasing crowd. Soon after this a train of thirty-two carriages, alive with people, came rolling in from Preston, drawn by two locomotives; when this had discharged its living freight, a similar convoy arrived from East Lancashire; and as these new crowds poured down from the station, a murmur of wonder seemed to thrill through the crowd as to when their complement would be full. At about three o'clock the meeting was opened with a hymn, and the formula of the proceedings differed in no respect from those adopted in the Orchard before the prohibition of public meetings within the borough of Preston. Among those who occupied the cart, I noticed Mr. Ernest Jones, who, having attended the inauguration of his favourite scheme, the Labour Parliament, had apparently resolved upon another attempt to amalgamate this with the Ten per Cent. movement. In this object he signally failed, for the chairman of the meeting refused him permission even to speak. Mr. Jones seemed very irate about this, and I am informed that he threatened to "throw himself upon the meeting;" whereupon he was told that he might throw himself where he liked, but that he must be quiet about it. During the progress of the speeches an incident occurred, slight in itself, but significant of the watchful care of the Unionists in avoiding every handle for a complaint on the part of the authorities. As the crowd occupied a very large space of ground, those upon the outskirts of it were quite out of ear-shot of the speakers; whereupon they very naturally tried to amuse themselves by jumping and leap-frog, and such like sports; but directly this was perceived by the delegates, they put a stop to it, adjuring the people for their own sakes, and for the sake of their cause, not to give the police a pretext for interference. This order was immediately and cheerfully obeyed; and this was the only instance, during the whole proceedings, of the slightest approach to levity on the part of the people. A few of the county police were present, but the Preston

police had the good sense to keep away. Many of the middle classes of Preston attended the meeting. It is difficult to estimate a scattered crowd; but, in my opinion, from fifty to sixty thousand would not be an over-statement. Thousands never reached the place of meeting at all; and it must have been long after sun-down ere many of the weary travellers regained their homes.

The only event of importance connected with the mills of the Associated Masters, during the past week, has been a considerable return of the hands to the mills of Mr. John Swainson. The following particulars have appeared in connexion with this event:—

#### L.—REPORTS

Being currently circulated that Mr. J. Swainson has made arrangements with his hands differing from those offered at the other mills of the Associated Masters, the committee beg to state that, in reference to such reports, the following note has been received from him.

By Order of the

COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATED MASTERS.

"Leighton-street Mills, Preston,

13th March, 1854.

"The hands, on resuming work at these mills, are to be paid our March list of prices.

"JOHN SWAINSON."

#### II.

#### MR. J. SWAINSON'S WEAVERS, LEIGHTON-STREET MILL.

#### TO THE ASSOCIATED MASTERS AND THE PUBLIC.

It having been stated (and very erroneously) by the Associated Masters, in a bill posted on the walls this morning, that Mr. J. Swainson's hands had resumed work at March prices, we request that the Associated Masters will not trouble themselves respecting the prices or terms on which we have commenced work, for we have pleasure in stating that these terms are mutually satisfactory to both the employer and employed.

Signed on behalf of the hands—

Ellen Sowerbutts.

Mary A. Sowerbutts.

Mary Jackson.

Agnes Wilmerson.

John Nevison.

Preston, March 15th, 1854.

Now the truth is, that Mr. Swainson has made an offer to his hands that if they will come in at the March prices he will give them a bonus of a shilling per warp, for weaving up all the old warps in the mill, making a written agreement with them that directly they see reason to be dissatisfied with their earnings, they may leave his employ without being obliged to give legal notice. This is understood to be neither more nor less than a virtual concession of terms acceptable to the hands, and it is expected that the stock of "old warps" will not be easily exhausted. The Associated Masters are said to be very angry about this arrangement, but they have no remedy. Placard No. 2 may be regarded as a well-merited rap on the knuckles for the Masters' Association, and it is to be hoped that they will improve the hint to mind their own concerns when gentlemen are sensible enough to prefer activity to idleness. It is believed, however, that Mr. Swainson does not stand alone in this willingness to make indirect concessions to the hands, and I have heard upon very good authority that when a weaver accepts work at the mills of one of the most inflexible of the Associated Masters, she receives a hint to put her hand into a certain place, where she is sure to find five shillings; and it is quoted about the town that one of the Association admitted that "he wouldn't like to be the first to break the bond, but he wouldn't mind being the second."

Since my last letter, from two to three hundred hands have been procured by immigration, but I understand that so far as offering any prospect of saleable cloth being turned out, the experiment is a miserable failure. When the first batches of hands procured from that source arrived, the masters disputed among themselves about "not having their share," and it is said that the cause of quarrel now is having "more than their share." On Monday morning thirty-five low Irish were brought from Manchester. I happened to be at the station when their effects were being removed from the train, and I saw bedding so full of vermin that the porters had to scald the trucks, and even the pavement of the station with boiling water. The railway officials are greatly to be blamed for permitting such filthy goods to be transported. Some of the Associated Masters meet the trains by which immigrants are expected, attended by a great posse of police, firemen, and specials. The polite manner with which these otherwise haughty gentlemen hand the females out of the carriages, inquiring after their bundles, and even dandling the babies, affords considerable amusement to the bystanders. There is great reason to believe that some of the emissaries employed in beating up recruits for the mills are not very scrupulous in the statements they make; some of the immigrants having complained very bitterly, that if they had known that the Preston operatives were on strike, they never would have been persuaded into coming. Nor do the masters appear to be more nice than their emissaries in their manner of obtaining and keeping hands, if we may judge from the following case, which was heard at the Town-hall, yesterday:—

It appeared that a girl named Caroline Green, aged 15, had been induced to leave the employ of Messrs. John Turner and Sons, of Blackburn, and to come to Preston, to work for Messrs. Swains and Buley. Her father had no trace of her until last week, when, hearing that she was at Preston, he came over and asked for his daughter at the factory where she was employed, but was told that he could not see her. Upon demanding to be informed where she lodged, he was told that she lived in the mill. He then applied to the magistrate, but was told that they could render him no assistance. I understand, however, that the girl has been given up, and is now returned to Blackburn. Another very gross case is quoted against an Associated Master. It appears that his head book-keeper had married a girl, who some years ago had been employed as a winder. The other day, the poor fellow was told that unless he brought his wife with him to wind, he need not come himself any more; "and," added this humane gentleman, "I'll take precious good care you don't get another place."

## Friday Morning.

I have just obtained a copy of a circular distributed by Messrs. Richardson and Whitworth, of Manchester, solicitors to the Defence Fund, among the parishes and unions of the kingdom:—

"Proposal for the removal of persons and families from the midland and southern districts of England to the manufacturing districts of Lancashire.—We propose to pay the entire expenses of the removal of any person or family into Lancashire, including their furniture, and to provide a person to accompany them.—We propose to employ the persons removed in the Cotton manufacture.—Widows with families (females preferred) are most desired, but man and wife with children tolerably grown will be acceptable.—In the cases of orphan children it would be desirable to attach them to some family when removed.—The hours of labour are 60 per week, —10½ on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 7½ on Saturday. Hours for meals—½ an-hour breakfast, and 1 hour for dinner.—Young persons above 18 will be guaranteed, during the first 12 months, fixed weekly wages of from 5s. to 6s. per head, whilst learning their employment, but if at any period during such 12 months they can by diligence earn more from piece-work they will be permitted to do so.—Children from 9 to 13 will be guaranteed 1s. 6d. per head for 12 months—the other portion being devoted to education at the expense of the employer. Hence the disparity in the wages offered to children under 13.—Suitable lodgings will be found for each family on their arrival in the North.—The families first accepting these offers will have the opportunities of the best employment, and will be removed to Preston, one of the best CONDUCTED of the manufacturing towns."

## "RICHARDSON &amp; WHITWORTH."

It is to be observed that this does not guarantee the return of the immigrants, in the possible event of their not being satisfied with their treatment in this "well-conducted" town.

## HEALTH OF LONDON.

(From the Registrar-General's Return.)

The week that ended last Saturday produced a considerable increase of mortality, the deaths in London having risen from 1135 in the previous week to 1343, the number now returned. Changes in the weather appear to have acted injuriously on the public health: the mean temperature fell below the average on Friday in the preceding week, and continued to fall on three following days. On Monday it was only 34 degs., or nearly 6 degs. below the average; on Wednesday it rose to 49·3 degs., which is 9·4 degs. above the average; on Thursday it rose to 54·5 degs., or 14·3 degs. above the average. The variation in the mean daily temperatures of Tuesday and Thursday amounted to 17·8 degs.

In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1844-53, the average number of deaths was 1083, which if raised in proportion to increase of population, becomes 1191. The number returned last week therefore exceeds the calculated amount by 152.

Last week the births of 946 boys, and 854 girls, in all 1800 children, were registered in London. The average number of nine corresponding weeks of the years 1845-53 was 1491.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 30·229 in. The mean daily reading was above 30 in. on every day except Friday. The highest mean was 30·539 in. on Sunday; the lowest 29·962 in. on Friday.

## HATTO'S CONFESSION.

ALL doubts as to the guilt of Moses Hatto, convicted of the murder of his fellow-servant, at Burnham Abbey, have been removed by a confession, which no doubt will be made public in extenso, but the substance of which at present has only been published:

Hatto says that, some short time previous to the 1st of November, the date of the murder, Mary Anne Sturgeon, the murdered woman, asked him to lead her a sovereign. This he at first refused to do, and angry words passed between them in consequence of his refusal. After consideration, however, he told her she might have the sovereign, or two or

three sovereigns, if she liked, and they were again good friends. On Tuesday, the 1st of November, he was employed almost the whole of the day in the house, cleaning the plate and other things, and had much conversation with the deceased. He says she twitted him and vexed him, and when night arrived they were far from being on friendly terms. In the evening, Sturgeon went to Bunce's cottage, and, when she had been gone some time, Hatto says he took off his shoes that he might not be heard, and proceeded to the door of the cottage, when he listened and overheard the conversation between deceased and Mrs. Bunce. That conversation, he says, vexed him very much—he considered it spiteful and disrespectful—and he returned to the kitchen of the farm-house, jumping over the wall, in order that he might make no noise by the opening and shutting of the gates which divide the court-yard from the road which runs by the back of the farm-buildings. Soon after he arrived back, the deceased, he says, came into the kitchen, put him out his supper, and, instead of the customary pint of beer, served him with only half-a-pint. He complained of the short allowance, and a quarrel ensued, in the course of which, he says, Sturgeon twisted him very much. He then says the devil came to him, and he struck the deceased a violent blow across the nose and mouth with the larding-iron. This "larding-iron" is a fearful weapon, about three feet six inches long, and about twice the thickness of an ordinary poker, the upper part being round and the lower part triangular. He does not state what effect this blow had upon the deceased, but the probability is, that it broke the bridge of her nose, knocked out her tooth, and caused an immediate and considerable effusion of blood. After the blow, he says, a scuffle took place between them; the deceased struggled hard, got uppermost, and he thought at one time she would have mastered him. She ultimately got away from him, and ran up-stairs to her bed-room, followed by him. He says she fell on her face just in the position in which she was found, and—snitting the action to the word—he added, "I then took up the poker and smashed her brains out." With respect to the burning of the body he is silent; he says that the clothes of the deceased must have caught fire. He says he then went into Mr. Goodwin's room, and took from off the dressing-table two razors, a knife with several blades, an ivory pocket-tablet, a gold ring, a gold watch-key, and a button-hook. After this, on going down stairs, he found he was covered with blood. He then changed everything he had on, which consisted of shirt, trousers, stockings, and boots. As he makes no mention of coat or waistcoat, it is fair to presume that he had thrown aside those garments before supper. He cut up his boots (high-shoes) with his master's razors, completely severing the upper-leathers from the soles. He then went into the paddock where the colts were kept, and threw the soles of the shoes into a pool of water about five feet deep, called the "Well;" the upper-leathers he stuffed into a drain which empties itself into the "Well." The feet part of his stockings, being very bloody, he cut away from the leggings, and deposited them under the coping of the immense wall which formerly enclosed a portion of the Burnham Abbey lands, and now separates the paddock from the high road. The leggings he placed in the manger in the stable, and they were there when Mr. Goodwin took his own horse—not wishing to call Hatto from other work—to go to the inquest at the Milehouse, on the Wednesday. The shirt and trousers he secreted in the orchard on the Tuesday night. On the night of Thursday, when he took his master's horse out of the stable, under the pretence of going to the Maidenhead railway station for a parcel, he carried the shirt and trousers with him, for the purpose of getting rid of them. The trousers, all but the waistband, he cut into small threads, and strewed them on the hedges and by the side of the road as he went along. Between the railway bridge and Maidenhead bridge, he threw the waistband of the trousers over a quickset hedge into an arable field. When he arrived at the top of Maidenhead bridge, he threw the stocking-leggings over into the Thames, and was about to throw the shirt after them, when the thought struck him that it would swim, so he brought it back again, and buried it beneath the manger of the centre stall of his master's stable. The articles taken from Mr. Goodwin's bedroom he says he placed in the ground, by the side of the footpath leading to Chippenham.

Such is the substance of Moses Hatto's confession; and, in order to test the truth of it, Mr. Frederick Charley, the solicitor for the prosecution, arrived at the Abbey Farm on Friday afternoon. There, in the presence of Police-superintendent Symington, Mr. Goodwin, and several friends, the paving was removed from under the manger of the stable, and at about twelve inches from the surface, a rotten, dirty, ragged shirt was found. There were marks of blood upon it—the wristbands were partially burnt off—and there were several holes burnt in the front, between the waistband of the trousers and the collar of the shirt. In the search made after the inquest, the soles of the boots had been fished from the well, but as there was nothing to connect them with the prisoner, they were thrown aside. On proceeding, however, to probe the tunnel, Mr. Charley and his assistants found the upper leathers, and it was plain to see that they had been severed from the soles by some sharp instrument. Search was made for the feet of the stockings, and for the articles taken from Mr. Goodwin's room, but the effort was fruitless.

That Hatto has suppressed the truth with respect to the burning of the body of his victim will be at once apparent from the evidence, which distinctly proves that napkins and articles of clothing were placed under the head and other parts of the person, whilst a deal table was broken up and heaped upon the corpse, for the purpose of destroying it. But when it is known—although it did not come out in evidence—that there was no fire in the murdered woman's room on the night in question, previous to the commission of the foul deed, the suppression becomes more palpable. After the body had been removed, an examination of the contents of the grate showed that the wood used as kindling had not been consumed in it. The supposition is, that the dirty candle, found at the bottom of the candlestick, in Sturgeon's room, was used for the purpose of igniting the combustible materials—rendered still more so by oil or naphtha—hesped upon and under the corpse.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

The Court has been at Osborne this week. As our readers will have seen elsewhere, the Queen of England has bidden her captains good-bye, and led her war-ships out to sea in right queenly fashion.

The Earl of Clarendon, Chevalier Bunsen, and General Count de Groeben, arrived at Osborne from London, on Wednesday, and had audiences of the Queen. They subsequently dined with Her Majesty, and returned to town the next morning.

A new permanent exhibition was opened to private view on Thursday, to the public to-day—the Royal Panopticon of Art and Science, in Leicester-square. The building has been constructed on purpose; it is of considerable space, and is designed in a kind of bastard Morisco style; the centre being a lofty vault, lighted from the roof. Tall turrets give a view over the metropolis; a place in the upper stories serves as a photographic room; the galleries and floor are crowded with specimens of arts and manufactures, from a lovely figure of a veiled Hour, by Monti, to working engines of various kinds; and a dissolving view, we understand, will be among the attractions. It will be necessary to take a more deliberate survey to estimate the arrangements. On Thursday the vast building was densely crowded with representatives of every class of London society.

The vacant Garter will be given to the Earl of Ellesmere. General Groeben has been sent from Prussia to the British Government on a special mission, to make explanations respecting the attitude of Prussia on the Eastern question.

Mr. Thackeray is in Naples, working hard for his many monthly readers, and Mr. David Roberts is also with us, sketching Italian scenery, which, by the way, looks almost as cold just now as his native Scotland.—*Post Correspondent at Naples.*

The Italian papers announce the death of Signor Robini, once greatest of tenors, on the 2nd inst. at Romano, in the province of Bergamo. He was sixty years of age.

Madame Berlioz, formerly Miss Smithson, the wife of the celebrated composer, died a few days ago at her residence at Montmartre. On her marriage with M. Berlioz she retired into private life.

The will and codicils of the late Sir Ralph Lopes were last week proved in the Prerogative Court of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The personal estate within the diocese was sworn under 180,000*l.*

Kossuth visited the Crystal Palace one day this week. His presence caused a sensation among the workmen, who testified their sympathy for the principle and the cause personified by the Governor of Hungary by a spontaneous manifestation, saluting him as he passed accompanied by M. Pulsky and his usual suite.

There is a general impression that Lord Adolphus Van will be brought forward by the Conservatives to represent the vacant seat in the northern division of Durham caused by the elevation of his brother, Lord Seaham, to the Upper House. Mr. Fenwick has also been named as a candidate on the Liberal side.—*Sunderland Times.*

The report of the select committee appointed to inquire into the allegations of Mr. Somers's petition, complaining of irregular proceedings in the matter of the petition against Mr. Sadleir's return for Sligo, has been presented to the House of Commons and printed. The committee report that the main allegations of Mr. Somers's petition are proved; that Mr. Gethin, solicitor, of Sligo, being instructed by Mr. Sadleir's agent to make inquiries as to the solvency of the sureties to the petition against Mr. Sadleir's return, employed for this purpose James Simpson, a farmer, and Henry Simpson, relieving officer of the Sligo Union; and that at a meeting at Gethin's office, at which the three were present, Gethin and James Simpson offered the father of one of the sureties 50*l.* to induce him to procure his son's signature to an affidavit giving a false statement as to his property; and that the Simpons made a similar offer in the case of the other surety, with a view to get sworn an affidavit (in Gethin's handwriting) containing false statements respecting the surety's property, with a view to showing that he was not worth the requisite amount. The committee report "that the conduct of these three persons is deserving of the serious attention and animadversion of the House;" but they state "that Mr. Sadleir does not appear from the evidence to have been personally implicated in or cognisant of these proceedings."

A meeting of the Dublin Privy Council was held on Thursday, when an order in council was agreed to, extending for the further period of six months the order in council of the 16th September, 1853, under the nuisance removal statute, commonly known as the Cholera Act.

The cholera has fairly begun its spring campaign. Already about 16 out of 40 have died, at Leeds. Nearly a hundred cases had been reported at Glasgow, up to Monday; and about half as many have occurred at Kauturk, in Ireland. Thus the three kingdoms are comprehended in the awful operations of the epidemic.

Cholera is again prevalent at Glasgow. On Saturday there were 10 deaths from it in the city parish, and 5 in the barony parish; on Sunday 16 in the former, and 11 in the latter; on Monday 10 in the former, and 6 in the latter; and on Tuesday 14 in the city parish.

The British and French Ministers had an interview with Secretary Marcy on the 23rd February, for the purpose of protesting against the fitting out of Russian privateers in the United States. It was also understood that they in-

formed the secretary that such vessels would be treated as pirates by their respective Governments.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Prince Edward Island, in opening the session of the Legislature on the 9th ult., was able to announce that the financial state of this colony is very satisfactory. The balance of the debt against the colony, which in 1850 was £1,579, is now only £3,284; and the revenue, which in 1849 was £18,615, had risen in 1853 to £35,845, including £2800, the produce of an education-rate. The Governor announced that he should have to bring under the notice of the Legislature, by message, some matters of a local nature, and among others the proposed withdrawal of the military.

On the 1st of April and thenceforward increased facilities will be afforded in procuring money-orders and obtaining payment of them when such payment is to be made through a bank. The Postmaster-General has directed that some of the precautions required for the security of ordinary money-orders shall in these cases be dispensed with.

At the last meeting of the Royal Flax Improvement Society, held in Belfast, with Mr. Sharmon Crawford in the chair, a communication was read from Major Larcom, Under-Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant, notifying that the Treasury had directed the Paymaster of Civil Services to transmit £1000 to the Belfast Banking Company, for the society's account, to be expended in the practical instruction of flax-growers in the counties of Cork, Kerry, Clare, Tipperary, Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, and Roscommon, in certain proportions recommended by the society. Also, a letter from Mr. Cairns, M.P., inclosing an intimation of a like nature, from the Secretary of the Treasury.

The Association for the Establishment of Tribunals of Commerce held a meeting this week, Lord Beaumont in the chair. The report of the executive committee declared that the distrust with which the public viewed the movement has given way to confidence. The committee ask for another year of agitation before appealing to Parliament.

It has been resolved to establish a reformatory institution for penitent women, at Norwich, in connexion with the Church Penitentiary Association.

The *Times* is requested to state that Lord Willoughby d'Eresby's steam plough is now completed, and available for general use. Any gentleman who wishes to see it in operation may do so on application by letter, two days previously, to Mr. Scott, Edenham Bourne. Lord Willoughby wishes it to be understood that free permission is given either to take drawings of the machinery, or to make any use that may be desired of the invention gratis.

In order to facilitate the raising of men for the army, the Secretary-at-War has dispensed with the usual form of first obtaining the discharge of a militiaman from him, and has authorised the colonels of militia regiments to grant forthwith discharges to all volunteers from their regiments willing to enlist into the line.

The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland has, through Major Larcom, expressed his "strong disapproval" not only of the manner of the decision of Mr. O'Callaghan, in the great tract case, but of the decision itself. It will be remembered that Mr. O'Callaghan ordered one Smith to find bail because he offered a tract in the street to a Mr. O'Brennan—the latter alleging that the offer of a Protestant tract to him, a Roman Catholic, was likely to make him commit a breach of the peace.

The Irish workhouses had above 1600 acres of land under cultivation at Michaelmas last, either wholly or partially, by the boys in the workhouses, the number of boys so employed being 3783; and 3196 boys were being instructed in trades, as tailors, shoemakers, and the like. The whole number of boys (between 9 and 15) in the workhouses was 12,320; of girls, 14,273. Of the girls 9166 were under industrial training. The instruction occupies four or five hours a day. During the previous year above 5000 boys and girls obtained employment outside their workhouses.

The old suit between Messrs. Combe, Delafield, and Co. and the corporation of London, came to an end on Tuesday. It will be remembered that the corporation attempted to enforce the payment of metage dues upon Messrs. Combe, who brought their own grain up the Thames for the use of their brewery. No sale took place, yet the corporation tried to enforce payment for measuring where measuring was not wanted. Messrs. Combe resisted; an action was brought; they met it by filing a cross bill for the discovery of titles, &c., and Vice-Chancellor Knight Bruce decided in their favour. The corporation appealed to the House of Lords. On Tuesday the appeal was withdrawn, on the ground that the corporation are making an arrangement beneficial to the public, and no longer contest with Messrs. Combe. The corporation pay the costs of the appeal.

Some criminals, whose deeds we recorded when they were perpetrated, have met with the punishment which at the time they could not have anticipated would overtake them. Thus the *ci-devant* Primitive Methodist, Abel Burrows, who at Heath and Reach murdered an old woman named Charity Glenister, by beating out her brains with a hammer, and who, maddened by rage and mock piety, exulted in the deed, singing, "Glory, glory to the Lord! Hallelujah!" has been sentenced to be hanged by the Judge presiding at the Bedford Assizes. He pleaded insanity.

Emery Spriggs, the landlord of an inn at Westbourne, who in a drunken quarrel shot his wife, has been sentenced under Lawes to transportation for life.

Saunders and Marshall, who robbed the jeweller's shop, at Leighton Buzzard, and Myers, who received the property, have, the two former, been transported for twenty years, the latter for fourteen. The robbery, it will be remembered, was daring and ingenious. They broke in at a front window, drugged two sharp watch dogs, took away the whole property in the shop except a ring and seal, and got clear off with the booty. But they were tracked to London; some green wax from a taper, dropped on the shop counter, was found also on the great coat of one of them; the evidence besides was complete. Mr. Mattheus, the jeweller, actually met Myers at Sirrell's, the gold refiner, trying to sell some of the property.

A ship-broker of Liverpool, named George Walker, has been committed for stealing a letter and forging an endorsement. A letter enclosing a draft for upwards of £11, was sent to Messrs. Walker and Wright of Chester; but by mistake it was addressed to Liverpool. Walker and Wright could not be found; but George Walker said it was his name on the draft, and drew the money!

Two boys employed in some marble-works at Westminster, quarrelled. When they were going home, one Gooden stabbed the other, Faulkener, because Faulkener pushed him. A similar scene was acted at Liverpool this week.

The wife-beating mania has come in again with the approach of cholera. Has the putrid atmosphere of our "back slums" anything to do with it?

Mr. Umpleby, a tradesman in Holborn, found that his clerk, Tucker, had embezzled money. Accordingly he gave him into custody; but at the police-station, while the injured master was giving the charge to the Inspector, Tucker levelled and fired a pistol at Mr. Umpleby; but as he was a bad shot his intended victim escaped. Tucker has been committed at Guildhall. He says the pistol went off by mistake!

A terrible tragedy was acted at Birmingham on Tuesday. A young woman named Walton called upon a widow named Taylor to collect rent. William Taylor, a son of the widow, was walking up and down the room. Miss Walton inquired how he was, when he suddenly flew at her, and attempted to cut her throat,—fortunately only cutting her face and body. Mrs. Taylor rescued the woman, and young Taylor immediately cut his own throat. No doubt Taylor was insane.

A young woman named Holder was left in charge of the house and child of her mistress at Bath, while the latter went to the Circus. Shortly before nine in the evening a fire broke out, Holder rushed up-stairs to save the child; she failed; she then rushed to the window to escape; it was too late, the flames rushing up drove her into the attic, where both she and the infant were suffocated. Cause of the fire unknown.

Sir James Wylie, for so long a time the chief physician at the Russian Court, has just died at St. Petersburg. He is reported to have bequeathed the entire of his very large fortune to the Emperor of Russia. Sir James Wylie was a Scotchman, born in 1768. He was knighted at Ascot Heath Races, in 1814, by George IV., then Prince Regent, and was subsequently created a baronet at the request of the Emperor Alexander, on his departure from England. The wealth of the deceased is stated to have been very considerable.

A most extraordinary account has reached us in a private letter from Vienna to a high personage here, and has been the talk of our salons for the last few days. It appears that the circumstance of the death of General Haynau presented a phenomenon of the most awful kind on record. For many days after death the warmth of life yet lingered in the right arm and left leg of the corpse, which remained limp and moist, even bleeding slightly when pricked. No delusion notwithstanding, could be maintained as to the reality of death, for the other parts of the body were completely mortified, and interment became necessary before the two limbs above mentioned had become either stiff or cold. The writer of the letter mentioned that this strange circumstance has produced the greatest awe in the minds of those who witnessed it, and that the Emperor had been so impressed with it, that his physicians had forbidden the subject to be alluded to in his presence. Query, can the above singular statement be verified? It was copied from a French paper, immediately after the decease of General Haynau was known in Paris. W. W.—From "Notes and Queries."

## Postscript.

SATURDAY, March, 18th.

THERE were interesting discussions in both Houses last night: that in the House of Commons was on University Reform. Lord JOHN RUSSELL moved for leave to bring in a bill to make further provisions for the good government and extension of the University of Oxford. He disclaimed any personal acquaintance with the studies and institution of the University, but said he had acquired much knowledge of the question from the Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the state of the University, as well as from the evidence given before a Committee of the Heads of Houses; and he had also received great assistance in the preparation of the bill from Mr. Gladstone. The plan he proposed was very much based on the recommendation of the Commission. He proposed to widen the field of education afforded by the University, by including in its history, modern literature, science, and other branches of professional teaching, for which no sufficient provision was now made, and also to remove the restrictions, and throw open the monopolies which now hampered the usefulness of the collegiate system of the University, and to appropriate the vast revenues now belonging to the separate colleges to the educational purposes of the University generally. Although this might occasionally cause an infringement of the letter of the wills of the founders it was calculated to carry out the spirit of their intentions, and such a change was perfectly justified by its usefulness. He proposed to set aside the present Hebdomadal Board, and in its place to erect a Hebdomadal Council, consisting of 24 or 25 members, of which the Vice-Chancellor and two Proctors should be *ex officio* members; some of the other members were to be recommended by the Chancellor of the University, but the majority

would be elected for six years by the University Congregation. The oaths to be taken on entering the University would be altered, so as to give greater latitude to the persons taking them, and it was proposed to allow professors to open halls under licenses from the Vice-Chancellor, to which students could be admitted at a less expense. He was of opinion that any direct interference with the expenditure of the students was undesirable, but should be left to moral restraints and the influence of the University authorities, exercised through the parents of students. It was proposed to throw open fellowships to a considerable extent, by rescinding the rules confining many of them to particular localities, founders, kindred, &c.; but maintaining the foundations now belonging to certain schools, which were the reward of merit. A fellowship would only be enjoyed for one year, except by persons engaged in certain educational duties, or holding certain offices in the University, or being incumbents or curates residing within a certain distance of Oxford. With regard to the appropriation of the University revenue, it was proposed to appoint a commission of five members, who were to adopt any suggestion they approved of, which the Colleges and the University might make before Michaelmas term next year. If the University did not carry out some scheme of itself, the commission would be enabled to draw up statutes for the purpose, which, after receiving the sanction of Government and Parliament, would become the law of the University. The collegiate revenues would be applied to University purposes, within certain limits. With regard to tests, he did not purpose to interfere with them in the present bill, but their abolition would be a result which was much to be desired, and would no doubt hereafter follow. It was a matter for separate consideration, although he would vote for any measure for admitting Dissenters to the University. He thought the measure he now proposed was a large and comprehensive measure of Reform, and calculated largely to extend the benefits of the University system.

Mr. BLACKETT and Mr. MIAZZI argued that there ought to be a provision in the bill for the admission of Dissenters to the University.

Mr. WALPOLE criticised the bill in many respects, and expressed an opinion that an enabling bill would have been quite sufficient, and more respectful to the University, than this compulsory measure.

Sir W. HEATHCOTE thought that a compulsory bill was necessary, as the University authorities could make no changes which were not sanctioned by their own statutes.

Mr. ROUNDELL PALMER's opinion was, that a very judicious selection had been made from the various plans of University Reform, in order to make up the proposed measure.

A discussion on minor points, which could hardly be called a debate, ensued. Mr. HENLEY said he looked on the scheme as tending to disunite the University from the Church of England.

Mr. GLADSTONE expressed the thankfulness of the Government for the manner in which the measure had been received by the House, and which justified a belief that it would be dealt with dispassionately, and not as a party question. He asked for a suspension of judgment on details till the bill was in the hands of members; which the Government had endeavoured to adapt to the diversity of statutes and interests which so much complicated the question of the constitution of the University. As to the questions of principle, he could allude to only three. Firstly, as the admission of Dissenters, he would only reserve himself till in Committee he had to deal with the clause for that purpose, of which notice had been given by Mr. Heywood, when he would state his reasons for meeting it with a negative. He then combated the proposal made by Mr. Walpole that the University should have been allowed to reconstitute itself without the interference of Parliament, and asserted the right of Parliament to deal with any corporation, which owed its safety and guardianship to the general law of the land. But it was especially necessary in this case, where many colleges were bound by their statutes to make no change in their constitution,—while if the University laboured under no such disability, yet the governing body had in fact no power to act in the matter of Reform.

As to the appropriation of the revenues of the College, they were to contribute a sum not exceeding one-fifth of their incomes to the general purposes of the University, in the first instance at their own discretion, but if they did not act, the Commissioners would do so, but with great limitations—a course consistent with precedent and often with the very letter of the statutes. The names of the Commissioners who were not yet placed on the bill would be inserted before the second reading.

The discussion then suddenly descended to Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE, who declared that a man would not have left his money to the University and never would leave it again—(laughter)—if it was diverted from the object for which it was intended, and so he expressed his aversion to the first principle of the

bill. He was followed by Mr. NEWDEGATE, equally strong in his opposition, after which, leave was given to bring in the bill.

On the motion that the House do go into Committee of Ways and Means, Mr. M. GIBSON drew attention to the rights of neutrals in time of war. In his motion, in consequence of a request from Sir James Graham, he had made no allusion to "Privateering," but he wished to know what would be the position of merchant vessels in the ensuing war, which carried on trade with the enemy, on which the Government had expressed no decided opinion, although some imperfect information had been given on the subject through the public journals. His object was only that instructions should be given to her Majesty's cruisers not to interfere with neutral ships loaded with mercantile produce, not contraband of war, so that private property in the Baltic trade might be respected, all the shipments of Russian produce having been bought and paid for, and therefore the property of neutrals or British subjects.

Mr. HORSTALL also pressed the subject.

Lord J. RUSSELL stated that the question was one of much nicety, and the preparation of the paper by which the Government must be guided would require the strictest verbal accuracy; but he hoped that it would be ready before hostilities were proclaimed.

Mr. T. BARING, Mr. RICARDO, and Mr. BRIGHT strongly urged the prompt decision of the Government; the latter gentleman urging the necessity of respecting fully the rights of neutrals, unless this country wished a war with the United States.

Lord J. RUSSELL asked the forbearance of the House for a few days.

A most animated discussion then arose, which was characteristic of St. Patrick's day, on Mr. G. H. MOORE's bringing the question of the neglect of the Colonial-office to examine the testimonials sent in by Mr. Stonor, whose name had been connected with corrupt practices at the Sligo Election before his appointment to a Judgeship at Victoria. Mr. F. PERL admitted it was an oversight, and Mr. WHITESIDE, Mr. BOWER, Mr. HUME, Mr. SADLER, Mr. FRENCH, and other members, alternately assailed and defended the Government. After this *fracas* the House went into Committee of Ways and Means, on the income tax, when Mr. HUME proposed an amendment to bring the tax down to incomes of £60. a year; to which Mr. GLADSTONE would not agree, but it was eventually arranged that the question should be brought forward on another occasion no further progress was made; and shortly after the House adjourned at twenty minutes past twelve.

In the House of Lords the Earl of MALMESBURY revived the question of the alleged betrayal of secrets of the Cabinet, and the transmitting of the contents of private Government despatches to the *Times*, which the Earl of Aberdeen had stated to have been the act of a clerk in the Foreign-office. Lord Malmesbury had communicated with the gentleman indicated, a Mr. Hugh Astley, and he had received a letter from him denying that he had, directly or indirectly, communicated the contents of any official document, and that as to those particularly in question he never knew of their existence until he heard of the accusation against him.

The Earl of ABERDEEN said, that on the last occasion that this matter was before the House, he had said he was willing to leave this matter to the decision of the gentleman in question; but he certainly did not by possibility expect a denial of the fact. The letter read by Lord Malmesbury was, however, conclusive, and he was sorry to have made the assertion he did; but he should be glad to put the noble earl in possession of the reasons on which he did so. As a general rule, nothing could be higher than the character, or more honourable than the conduct of the clerks in the Foreign-office.

The Earl of DERBY expressed an opinion that Lord Malmesbury should accept the offer of Lord Aberdeen to disclose the grounds on which he made the accusation in question. He then alluded to the fact that the *Times* had recently often been in possession of what ought to have been secrets of the Cabinet, which could only have been obtained by the misconduct of some member of the Cabinet, or the want of discretion of some official. He strongly stigmatised the granting to newspapers the use of documents which were not laid before Parliament; for in the present instance a journal had been enabled to publish the ultimatum of the Government before it could by possibility have reached the Russian Government, and this might be accounted for by the fact, that the editor of the *Times* was on terms of personal intimacy with several members of the Cabinet, while other members of the Government were absolutely "leader writers" in that paper. If the matter was not brought before Parliament, he would take upon himself the duty of endeavouring to induce Parliament to use its power to discover and put a stop to, as well as to punish, such practices.

In reply to Lord CLANRICARDE, Lord Clarendon promised that the whole of the plan of the Government, in regard to neutrals should be laid before Parliament in a few days.

The House adjourned soon after six.

# The Leader.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1854.

## Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—DR. ARNOLD

### IS SECRET ADMINISTRATION UN-ENGLISH?

The disclosure made by the *Times* on Saturday, that a secret negotiation has been going on between the Russian Sovereign and our Government, raises two questions which are in themselves absolutely distinct.

From all that we know on the subject, we are not at all inclined to presume that the English Government will be convicted of showing any subservience to Russia, especially in the recent stages of the dispute; and we fully expect that the correspondence which will be laid before Parliament will display our Ministers in a position more creditable than that which has been hitherto assigned to them,—more in accord with the description which Lord Clarendon has given of the war, its motives and objects. At all events, on that question our judgment must be entirely suspended, until we shall have the evidence before us.

The second question, however, is of still greater importance—of importance quite as great in regard to the specific subject of war, and infinitely larger in regard to the general conduct of our Government in conducting the affairs of the country abroad. It is the question—To whom are Ministers responsible? Something must be amiss, when we find honest men, like Lord John Russell, betrayed into secret negotiations with mean offenders that wear crowns or stars abroad. And there are other signs that something is going wrong—something which threatens that while we are wasting blood and treasure to purchase victories by sea and land, we may be losing much greater ground in the covert battle of diplomacy. The fact is that Prussia, which had been up to a certain point urging Austria into a more cordial alliance with this country, had drawn back and shirked the alliance, turning cool and endeavouring even to prevent Austria from going forward. The immediate impulse, of course is immense indignation against Prussia. But we have heard it averred that Prussia is not acting in the present instance without grounds.

According to the view which is entertained in Berlin, Prussia does not hesitate to take a decided step herself, but requires other parties in the negotiations to take steps not less decided. Englishmen have already asked whether their own Government has established a firm position? For example, has Lord Aberdeen taken any guarantee that the treaties which Russia has so abused shall be cancelled, and not renewed for purposes of further abuse? We are not aware that he has done so; and it is quite natural that Prussia should be startled at any appearance of faltering decision in the English Government. Englishmen would desire that their own Government should effectually sustain the objects which we have in the East; but it is evident that to Prussia any vacillation in England must imply a doubt whether the alliance with this power would be safe and politic. It is the policy of Austria to make just so much war as is possible without disturbing the existing

arrangements of Europe; it is very difficult thus to measure out war accurately by the yard, or effectually to bring down the "blasting influence" against which Lord Clarendon proclaims a crusade, without giving a shake also to some other blasting influence. This conservative view reminds one of the task imposed upon some fairy hero, to carry on a broadsword combat with ten men, while he continued to play a lute as a charm to prevent the castle walls from tumbling about his ears. But if in England we doubt the possibility of Lord Aberdeen's successfully carrying through a broadsword combat while he is playing the lute for the preservation of Austria, it is evident that to the Prussian Government the proposed course of action, which would sacrifice the very object of all the warfare, and the complete curbing of the blasting influence to the convenience of Austria—Prussia's rival in Germany—must suggest serious reasons to doubt the sincerity, the good faith, the strength, the independence—in short, the honest purpose of the English Government. The attempt to hold up Prussia to odium as a deserter, and then to frighten her into an alliance, not only adds insult to injury, but furnishes a foretaste of the treachery which is anticipated.

Such is the view on which the conduct of Prussia is explained—a view which is formed not without some knowledge of the councils actually prevailing in Berlin. We do not say that it is a just statement of the case as respects either Austria or England. We have no evidence with which we could compel the reader to accept it; but we do say that the exposition of such a view is sufficient to create a strong desire for a much more explicit statement on the part of our Government. Prussia says, You are sacrificing the interests of Europe, in order to subserve the purposes of Austria, by keeping the war within certain delicately arranged limits. Now is that true or is it not?

It is the more desirable to know, since the very approval which Government receives for keeping back information is in itself suspicious. Lord Derby thinks that Government is right; Lord Malmesbury would not call for an explanation; and, indeed, that class of gentlemen speak as if the conduct of the Administrators for the time being only concerned themselves,—as if the great body of the nation really had no interest in the matter. It is only by the accidental intervention of the *Times* that this information is dragged out; and evidently neither the Ministerial statesmen, nor the Anti-Ministerial, think that nation of any importance.

And perhaps they are right. The day is passed when the nation was prepared to prove its own importance. Formerly, before the representative chamber would vote the public money, it required to know what the money was voted for. But, one by one, Parliament has been giving up its privileges. To raise questions on nights of supply is thought unpoltite. That duty is left Government entirely in the hands of gentlemen having crotchetts to serve, who can obtain attention at no other time, and who prostitute the right of stating "grievances" until it becomes a mockery. The English nation which has suffered itself to be deprived of the privileges secured to it in the Bill of Rights,—which has virtually, if not literally, yielded up its local government, its right of meeting, its suffrage for every freeman, its right of possessing arms, its right of withholding supply until knowing what it is wanted for,—really retains no power of its own—no power to which Ministers or Parliament really defer. If Ministers slight the nation, it is because the nation prefers to be slighted. But, in the meantime, it is well to

understand the fact distinctly,—that statesmen of all parties—Russells, Peeles, Stanleys, Harrises—have gradually taken to themselves the settlement of all these things in the name of “England,” and regard consultation with England herself in the most important matters of all as a supererogation.

#### JUDGE TALFOURD'S LAST WORDS.

THERE was a time when one Englishman felt disposed to aid another because he also was an Englishman; when one man owned it his duty not only to help but to cheer and solace another, because he worked under the same roof. If we have cultivated “the virtue of self-reliance” it has been too exclusively, and at the cost of that brotherly bond. A few more years, and the country might have been galvanized, as it were, by that artificial mechanical life into a conglomeration of separate atoms, instead of being that which it ought to be—an organism with some unity in its life, and some common feeling in all its members. Luckily, the circumstance of an attack upon our country and our national honour has suddenly given the challenge to more generous feeling; has given birth to a new memory that Englishmen are Englishmen, and that a common country ought to endow us with a kind of brotherhood.

It is to the want of that brotherhood,—to the neglect of the duty which belongs alike to the piety of patriotism and to the sense of Christianity, that much of our social evil is owing. This fact has been eloquently declared from the seat before which crime is brought for judgment. With the prisoners before him, Mr. Justice Talfoord has turned round to society, in the true spirit of his Master, and has shown that the man arraigned was not the only culpable. In his charge to the grand jury at Stafford, he was observing the number and degree of the crimes on the calendar, and was pointing to the chief cause,—not only to intemperance, not only to want of education, but to the want of that moral fostering which happier classes derive from social intercourse. The words are so good that they deserve to have been the last which the judge uttered:

“I cannot help myself thinking, it may be in no small degree attributable to that separation between class and class, which is the great curse of British society, and for which we are all more or less in our respective spheres in some degree responsible, and which is more complete in these districts than in agricultural districts, where the resident gentry are enabled to shed around them the blessings resulting from the exercise of benevolence, and the influence and example of active kindness. I am afraid we all of us keep too much aloof from those beneath us, and whom we thus encourage to look upon us with suspicion and dislike. Even to our servants we think perhaps we fulfil our duty when we perform our contract with them—when we pay them their wages, and treat them with the civility consistent with our habits and feelings—when we curb our temper, and use no violent expressions towards them. But how painful is the thought that there are men and women growing up around us, ministering to our comforts and necessities, continually inmates of our dwellings, with whose affections and nature we are as much unacquainted as if they were the inhabitants of some other sphere. This feeling, arising from that kind of reserve peculiar to the English character, does, I think, greatly tend to prevent that mingling of class with class—that reciprocation of kind words and gentle affections, gracious admonitions, and kind inquiries, which often more than any book education tend to the culture of the affections of the heart, refinement, and elevation of the character of those to whom they are addressed. And if I were to be asked what is the great want of English society—to mingle class with class—I would say, in one word, the want is the want of sympathy.”

This is one of the great truths of the day, and the circumstances under which it was uttered add a striking force to the beauty of the sentiment. In describing the power of a great hero rallying his countrymen to the battle, the poet feigns that his tutelary god-

deas threw a supernatural voice into his cry; but it needs no fiction in this case to recognise the presence of a Divine power while the Judge was rallying his countrymen to their duty. The words of truth were the last which Talfoord uttered; as though fate were envious that any less sacred should fall from the same lips. Many have been envied the manner of their death; but he who expiates uttering words which, serving truth, at once serve justice, man, and God, attains a fate which the most illustrious might envy.

#### PROTESTANT ALLIANCE WITH TURKEY.

BEFORE the war actually commences, we are progressively arriving at more distinct conceptions of the object entertained on either side by those who make the war. The two objects are equally distinct, but totally diverse. On the side of Russia the object is of a so-called religious kind; on the side of England it is entirely political. It happens, indeed, that political considerations strengthen the purpose of Russia, and it also happens that religious considerations ought to strengthen the purpose of England; but this does not vitiate our statement.

It is some time since Mr. Layard distinctly declared the object of Russia, in explaining that there exists in the Greek Church of Turkey a species of Dissent or Protestantism, which it is the object of Russia to put down. It will be remembered that the Greek Church did not arise from any doctrinal dispute with the Romish Church, but was rather a casual splitting of one Church into two branches,—the Eastern and Western branches, under the circumstances attending the decline of the Roman Empire. By most of the tests which could be applied to such a subject, the Romish Church must be considered to have remained in possession of the Apostolical succession, of the most authentic traditions, and of the better-authenticated discipline and rule; the Greek Church therefore being schismatic, not in virtue of any doctrinal revolt against the authority of the Pope, but by reason of having drifted accidentally into schismatic and erroneous customs, which were afterwards supported through the pride belonging to all human nature, and peculiarly developed in all clergy of dissentient and schismatical creeds. The Greek Church is still recognised by the Pope as belonging to his own domain, only lying in a certain remote and outcast condition; and the Sovereign Pontiff, in one of his latest acts, busied himself in the endeavour to regain the lost province.

The Greek Church, however, has not produced that host of great churchmen, that army of distinguished statesmen, authors, artists, and men of science, whom the Church of Rome can reckon amongst her sons. In the great protecting empire of Russia, the clergy are for the most part in a socially low condition; and, in short, the Greek Church is essentially as inferior to the Church of Rome, intellectually, socially, and politically, as it is doctrinally. It is necessary to bear in view this relation of the Greek Church to Rome, in order to understand quite distinctly the relation of English opinion to this particular branch of the subject.

Lord Shaftesbury has taken the trouble to rake up information on the subject of the Protestantism within the Greek Church; and his speech on Saturday shows how completely this incident of religious government in Turkey has been overlooked. He produced many examples from official papers; but one will suffice for our present purpose:—

“In the latter part of January of the year 1846 the full vials of hierarchal vengeance were poured out upon the heads of the defenceless men and

women in the Armenian Church, who chose to obey God rather than man. They were summoned before the patriarch, one by one, and peremptorily ordered to subscribe their names to a creed which had been prepared for the purpose, on pain of the terrible anathema, with all its barbarous consequences. In the course of a week or so they were ejected from their shops and their businesses. Men, women, and children, without regard to circumstances, were compelled to leave their habitations, sometimes in the middle of the night, and to go forth into the streets, not knowing whither they should go, or where they should find shelter. The bakers were prohibited from furnishing them with bread, and the water-carriers with water. Parents were forced by the patriarch to cast out even their own children who adhered to the Gospel, and to disinherit them. The patriarch and his party resorted to every species of oppression without the least scruple or pity; and it was evident that want of power only prevented them from cutting off heads. The brethren could not pass through the streets without being abused by all kinds of filthy language, spit upon, and stoned; a few were cast into prison, and for several Sundays the churches resounded with anathemas against the followers of the new sect. It was at this crisis that the bitterness of persecution was arrested from a quarter whence such an interference might have been least expected. The Turkish Government interposed to stay the tempest of ecclesiastical fury, and protected the incipient reformation. The Armenian patriarch, summoned before Redschid Pasha, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, was charged by him to desist from his oppressive course. It was through the influence of Sir Stratford Canning, whose noble and persevering efforts to secure in Turkey liberty of conscience are above all praise, that this result was obtained.”

We now understand why it is that the Russian Government, while calling upon the Turkish Government to obey the letter of certain old treaties about the custody of keys in Syria, and the repairing of churches in Constantinople, endeavoured to strengthen and enlarge her interference on behalf of the Greek Christians; that interference being always intended on behalf of “the orthodox Christians.” Of course it would be an outrage on the prerogative of the orthodox to be restrained in the exercise of their authority over the un-orthodox—the Armenian Protestants. The rights of the orthodox included the right of tyranny; and in restraining them from that tyranny the Turkish Government committed an offence in the eyes of the Christian patron—Russia. We are not left to infer this conclusion from the simple acts of war, even by the light of the information which Mr. Layard and Lord Shaftesbury have collected. We have now the authority of Count Nesselrode, and the long memorandum in the *Journal of St. Petersburg*, to prove that the object of the Turkish Government was to strengthen and extend its right of interference on behalf of the orthodox Greek Christians. That is distinctly avowed. The object of the war, therefore, with Russia is “religious”—that is to say, it is a crusade to sustain the authority of the Patriarch whose method of enforcing his authority is exemplified above.

Now the objects of the war on the side of England are political, although we say religious considerations cannot be omitted. The religious considerations are these. Englishmen will not pretend that they can absolutely determine what is the “truth”; no Englishman would pretend to sit in judgment upon the two parties in the divided Greek Church, and to set himself up as empowered by divine authority to give control to the one over the other. We have learned better than to advance such pretensions even in matters of dispute between Christian and Saracen. Our process is quite different: we say that if a man conscientiously study the records of mankind, the labours of theologians, in the works of God, he will gradually arrive so much the nearer to the truth; that in order to promote that study as generally and effectively as possible, it is necessary to set men free from any Popish authority; and therefore it is our conviction that in order constantly to protect labour in the search of

truth, we ought to defend the freedom of men in thought, word, and action, against the oppressive dictation of man. In this case, then, the practical question is, which power dictates, which power most obstructs freedom of thought, word, and action. It is the orthodox Patriarch, who is the special *protégé* of Russia. Which power most exercises its authority for the protection of freedom against spiritual oppression? It is the Turkish Government, as compared with that of Russia. It is evident therefore that all motives that can actuate Protestant dissenters in promoting Christian freedom against Popish authority should engage them to support the English Government in preventing even the coercion of the Turkish Government by that of Russia.

These are the religious considerations that warrant the war; but its objects, we repeat, are purely political. As Lord Palmerston says, if we were to interfere within the Turkish dominion, in sustaining one class of the Sultan's subjects against another, we should be doing exactly that which we condemn in the Czar. Our business, as a foreign state, is to uphold the rights of states. There are indeed sometimes instances of higher humanity that can justify an intervention; but in the present instance we can really do all that is required by humanity, by actual justice, by Protestant sympathy, if we simply fulfil the ordinary dictate of international justice and sustain the Government of Turkey in its independence and its rights. In assailing that independence and those rights, the Government of Russia is only carrying out that same attempt at dictation, at general encroachment, and at supreme dominion, which has made her the curse of Europe; and the object of the war with England,—the solely political object, is thus described by Lord Clarendon in a passage which appears to us to explain the duty of England in words as lucid as they are simple:—

"We are about to engage in a contest in support of the principles of justice and of sound policy; we are about to prevent the pernicious example being given of a weak State being overwhelmed by a powerful neighbour; we are about to prevent the unjust interpretation of a treaty being supported by violence; we are about to prevent the territorial limits established by treaty, and the equilibrium of Europe from being violently disturbed; and I hope, as my noble friend stated, that we shall also put a stop upon that blasting influence which has deprived more than one country of Europe,—indeed, I may say, so large a portion of Europe, of its freedom of action—an influence which is always exerted to check that progress which is essential to the welfare of nations—and an influence, moreover, which by stigmatising as revolutionary, and by checking all those improvements which Governments have been willing to give and the people being fit to receive were entitled to expect, has encouraged disloyalty and discontent, and has so operated that Russian influence has really served the cause of revolution."

#### "UNFIT FOR PUBLICATION."

Now half the case of the Belgian girl has yet come before the public, and there is one part of it that is not likely to be paraded in the general view. In some respects that part is the worst. There are many persons—some perhaps connected with the particular case—who object to the publication of such incidents, although they take an active part in the drama which they flinch from placing before the public. It is necessary to announce the existence of this party, and its active though unpublished protests, in order that we may appreciate the objection of another more numerous class, which protests against the publication of such stories for the reason that they will corrupt the morals of society. Now we have long held that this last reason rests upon totally erroneous grounds. It rests upon the presumption that if people *know* of certain subjects they will necessarily be in-

cited to act upon their knowledge improperly, or, at all events, will be weakened in their resistance to the suggestions of vice. This fallacious idea of strength accruing from ignorance is transparent. We will not dwell upon the many cases which occur, of women who "fall," and youths, too, entirely through ignorance of that into which they are about to plunge; we will not rely upon the fact that systematic pursuers of vice reckon that ignorance amongst their own resources; and we lay no stress at all upon the long-refuted innocence of Arcadian youth. But no man will pretend that, comparing different parts of the same level of society with each other, the country population is more vicious than the town population. Upon the whole, the great balance of vice lies in the towns, not only because there is more concentrated industry in the production of that commodity as well as of others, but because the very morbid tendencies of a town atmosphere weaken the frame and incline it to depart more and more from the type of nature. For which reason is it that the town-bred human being is less strong to resist depraving influences than the rustic, although when the rustic does take depravity into his head, he has a power of carrying it to lengths for which the town man is too feeble. On the other hand, a moment's reflection will show, that on certain subjects the rustic must have innumerable crowding suggestive illustrations of which the town-bred human being may grow up in absolute ignorance.

But it is not only on the score of withholding an acquaintance with practical life which may serve for the "information and guidance" of the young, that we object to the suppression of these reports. The bad result of "hushing up" the scandals of society goes far deeper. It has to do with the very government of society, the construction of its habits, the toleration of things intolerable, and the health of its conscience. We may be bad or good; but always—short of depravities which must ever remain monstrous and exceptional—where our acts are avowed, there is a guarantee which human instinct supplies, that we shall not depart very far from the common type of our nature. If we forego the check which publicity affords to our own conscience, we abrogate the strongest law by which virtue can enforce its dictates.

One horrible and signal example of that result in a practical reform was presented by the state of New South Wales before the abolition of convictism. Vices had grown up in that community in such general prevalence and such excess as to bring upon society a character too much approaching that of the cities destroyed and now lying at the bottom of the Dead Sea. Gomorrah and its companion in destruction became the common types of New South Wales in the mouths of those to whom the condition of the country was notorious. Yet, by a general consent, these hideous facts were hushed up; and when, with equal courage and probity, Sir William Molesworth, to whom the case had been presented by Mr. Edward Gibbon Wakefield and other colonial reformers, obtained his committee of inquiry, presented his report to Parliament, and declared the facts, a burst of indignant denial was the response from New South Wales. There was some trouble to obtain an official recognition of a fact generally notorious. At last, however, healthier councils prevailed—the Home Government suppressed convictism; the colony became reconciled to its own improved health; and a little later, when Lord Grey proposed to restore convictism, the colony was as loud as any of the colonial reformers had been in denouncing that proposal to re-establish vice on the ground from which it had been exiled. At one time the proposal

to withhold "compulsory labour" from Van Diemen's Land might have bred an insurrection in that island; but more recently, the obstinacy of the Home Government, in retaining a hated relic of convict emigration to Van Diemen's Land, had very nearly induced the same disastrous tumult. But what was the real cause,—the one thing to bring about the difference between this healthy conscience that repelled the very suggestion of vice, and that unhealthy conscience that admitted the vice, and even hugged it? The cause was the manful declaration that the vice existed—the persevering and courageous refusal to take the part of an accomplice in hushing up the notorious fact.

But, it is said, you may bring about the same result without the details. This is simple nonsense. No general propositions will ever convince the common run of men. Philosophers and scientific persons, may be satisfied by algebraic formulas, which are sufficient for the logical treatment of a subject. As Euler, in discovering the law of arcs, declared "this is true although it is contrary to all experience," the philosopher can admit an abstract truth upon the simplest working of the problem. But the philosopher cannot get the House of Commons to pass a resolution. Euclid never could by abstract grounds have got Honourable House over the Pons Asinorum, and as little would general statement that New South Wales was as bad as bad can be, have drawn forth that public opinion in this country which brought Government to its senses. It was the statement of comparatively few facts as specimens of their entire class,—hideous facts, which, without sufficient cause, must not be repeated,—improbable facts, which without proofs must not be believed—facts that made the perspiration stand as we have seen it on the foreheads of Englishmen listening to "the details," and instilled into the heart of those Englishmen the resolution that these things must not go on. Now New South Wales, by common consent, had hushed up its enormities, and continued enormous: Sir William Molesworth and the few with him raised their voices, stated "the details," said things in public "unfit for publication," and the whole enormity broke down.

But even that illustration by no means exhausts the question. There is a further truth. At home we are doing worse than the people of New South Wales. They were hushing up an enormity,—winking at unspeakable crimes for the sake of lucre,—tolerating the presence of criminals for the sake of the compulsory labour; but they did not share the crimes themselves. Their own dependents indeed suffered, most especially their servants and their children; but personally they might say, *We are not a part of this wrong.* In England it is different: some of those who object to the publication, do not object to the wrong-doing, except in other people. The community, therefore, is consenting to hush up enormities which it is itself sharing; and so far, although the offences do not altogether equal those of New South Wales, the share of complicity on the part of many protesters is infinitely greater. But what must be the condition of a community in which some of the governing classes,—for so we believe it to be,—are sharing in the wrong over which they throw a veil, pretending that it does not exist? There is not only the depravity, nor only the hypocrisy of hiding it, but there is a certain impudence which implies a hardening of the heart, indurating the sense even to the reception of better feeling. Let us take a few facts not altogether beyond our own knowledge; for let us observe, that the sight of

journalism extends further and deeper than that of any one man, and although we do not speak at second-hand, we can speak of more than one pair of eyes can witness.

There have been, in newspaper correspondence, in Club talk, in general conversation, many protests against the publication of these demoralising incidents. Some who have protested, notoriously could be convicted, not, perhaps, of the worst outrage against Alice Leroy, but of a certain familiarity with such houses as that of Madame Denis, and with such society as that frequenting the house. Others who take part in these proposals to keep the acts of society under a veil, shrouded from the moral police of public opinion, are either by themselves or their relatives constantly mixed up with a traffic, not, perhaps, quite so degraded as that in question, but forming the great body of the market in which that establishment was a leading firm. The very magistrate on the bench has connived in this farce before the public. For example, he will fine the profligate in the dock before him, and will give the amount of the fine to some attendant to carry round to the dock. Sometimes this has been done through benevolence, sometimes from a different motive. But what will the reader think when he hears that men have objected to open investigation into such cases as that of Alice Leroy, because it would induce the public to obtrude into the recreations of "gentlemen?" It is said that such inquisition is inconsistent with personal freedom! Now, our own readers will not regard us as upholding a régime, which some call "conventionality," or some "starched morals;" but we do say, that a society which can, in the strongest language, condemn a certain kind of action,—which can, nevertheless, freely and copiously indulge that action,—can then conceal its own acts, pretending that it is different,—and can then resent publication of its own conduct as too indecent for its own eyes,—is an impudent, hypocritical, depraved, and corrupt society, which ought not to be left in peace. We rejoice sometimes when the veil is torn open, even for a little corner, because that chance is at least a slight guarantee that the corruption which is constantly eating into the heart of society does have some check. That the healthy wind of nature can carry its ventilation where it would not otherwise have penetrated affords a chance that the hot-bed of corruption may be disturbed, and that, if it be not purified, its pestilent fertility is prevented from increasing.

#### DO THIS WITH YOUR BLUE-BOOKS.

LORD STANLEY, who is always exercising a useful activity, is taking a leading part in assisting to do something for the improvement of our Blue-Book System, by publishing a pamphlet entitled "What shall we do with our Blue-Books? or Parliament the National Schoolmaster." Most people are aware that Parliament is in the habit of ordering "returns" from public departments, of collecting information by its committees, of appointing special commissioners who are bound to furnish reports occasionally or annually, and also of receiving similar communications presented by royal command. The whole mass is printed, most usually in a folio size, in very wide type, so as to constitute a very large volume. This size is partly excused by the convenience that large print affords to elderly Members; a circumstance which implies that Members are weaker in their eyes than in their arms; for even the ordinary blue-book is of a weight sufficient to be fatiguing. The slenderer are inconvenient to hold from the particular mode of binding: the blue paper which covers the outside, not so stiff as thin parchment, is insufficient for a support; while

the method of stitching the volume prevents its folding back conveniently like a newspaper. Sometimes, however, the volume is in itself of huge size. The report on the corrupt practices at Hull is an example.

It was contained in two volumes, and the *Times* correctly described it as constituting "a load which a man of average strength would hesitate to carry from St. Paul's to Charing-cross." The two volumes consist of 2318 pages; they contain 82,800 "cross questions and crooked answers;" in solid contents they compromise a very small fraction short of 700 cubic inches; they weigh 14 pounds  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounces—more than the half of a quarter of a hundredweight. The total weight of the whole impression of this work amounted to 11 tons 6 hundredweight. Now it is very doubtful whether any considerable number of volumes were read. Certainly the number that served any practical use in this case cannot altogether have weighed the odd 6 hundredweight,—which would allow forty-eight readers of the whole. Independently of the labour of collecting and arranging the information, 11 tons of the book were published for no practical advantage whatever. After all, the House would proceed to deal with the case upon some digest by a committee or by particular speakers. For the mere size of the book is an evil in itself. It is not only a waste of paper and printing, but is actually an obstacle to arriving at that information, or to rendering it useful. Such volumes could be useful only in case Members should transfer to the library the contests of party, and copying the church militant of Boileau's *Lutrin*, were to use the books as missiles. A blue-book like this would have suggested to the French satirist a parallel to Acis, whom Polyphemus slew with a crushing rock. In point of fact, very few people meddle with the blue-books, and those only when they have some particular interest.

Lord Stanley sums up the evidence taken before last year's committee "on Parliamentary Papers," which reports the existence of "a general desire to obtain these documents; 15,284 persons have petitioned for an extensive and liberal distribution," and the committee observe that the expense would be inconsiderable in proportion to the advantages that might be expected. The committee, which is not unacquainted with blue-books, ought to have known better. The advantages, we venture to say, would be inconsiderable in proportion to the expense, and certainly in proportion to the bulk.

In America they have been familiar with this distribution. The reports of the American Congress are printed, mostly in the octavo form; which is a great improvement upon ours, and has been copied in some particular departments. The annual expense is about 100,000*l.*, the distribution being gratuitous. It is stated, however, by Mr. Stanbury of Washington, in a letter to the Society of Arts, and by Mr. Stevens, the literary agent to the Smithsonian Institute at New York, that the reports are much prized. But the numbers which reach the shops, and are consumed as waste paper, are a substantial proof that the distribution is not universally valued. Those who are acquainted both with English institutions and with blue-books,—such as Mr. Baines, the president of the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes,—are aware how inconvenient it would be for societies to preserve them all. Sir Archibald Alison thinks that a small selection would be more acceptable, and no doubt he is right.

Lord Stanley perceives the fatal effect of the dead weight upon the knowledge which is enclosed in it. Men are greedy for gold, as these are for knowledge which is dearer

than gold; yet the most avaricious would not be more shocked than the men obliged to wade through the blue-books of a session, if he received unsmeled gold ore in place of sovereigns. Lord Stanley suggests that the English press should be the filter through which blue-books should be strained—the smelting furnace in which the dross should be taken from the ore, and the net result transmitted to the public. But here, let us observe, Lord Stanley evidently speaks with an imperfect knowledge of the instrument whose voluntary assistance he invokes. Already journalists that think it worth their while obtain possession of the blue-books; the cost in money being a comparatively small consideration. The true cost of making the proposed abridgment lies in *the labour*; and we venture to say that the labour of condensing the blue-books is one that would be insurmountable.

There are no doubt objections to Parliamentary abstracts. They may be dry, and perhaps one-sided; and we agree that in many cases these abstracts are not satisfactory; for they have been tried. But the truth is that the information should never get into this impracticable bulky state. There is only one body that could satisfactorily make the abstract, and that is the body acquainted with the same information at first hand—in other words, the committee. We are only repeating the opinion of many persons who have well considered this subject, in saying that if the committee did its duty, it would, in the first instance, be careful in sifting the information while collecting it, so as to keep the record of the evidence to the matter in hand; secondly, in rendering the *order* of the collection,—an important point,—as lucid and intelligible as possible; and thirdly, in making the report a full abstract of the evidence. If that abstract went to an inconvenient length for a mere report of conclusions, then, as in the case of the report on Divorce law, it would be possible to put the conclusions at the end of the report in a perfectly distinct and portable form. The committee itself, then, fulfilling the original trust reposed in it, would collect the materials, and reduce the produce to a shape fit for practicable use—would both quarry the ore and smelt it. It would be quite proper to keep the original notes copied out in manuscript, and to render this accessible, of course, to members. This plan would tend more than anything else to diffuse the information now buried in blue books. If it were simply unburied, and then, if a fair price were put upon the nett reports, we are convinced that their circulation would be very extensive, and their value would be so considerable that there would be no necessity to raise any question about gratuitous distribution, still less to rely upon the voluntary efforts of editors to do the work which the committees leave undone. We should then not only save an immense amount of waste in printing and paper, but instead of spending the public money in a blue book which actually *prevents* the diffusion of information, we should be relieved of the burden and have our information.

#### THE TYNE HARBOUR OF REFUGE.

THERE is a part of the coast of England which is remarkable for its cruel character. It is principally composed of iron-bound cliffs mingled with treacherous sands. It is exposed to fierce winds, and is one of the most dangerous of lee shores. In this part a quarter of all the wrecks of the United Kingdom happen; in the year 1852, 237 wrecks happened; a single gale has in the present year driven on shore 110 ships. Notwithstanding the remark of Lucretius, nothing can be more painful than to witness the deplorable and certain loss of life on occasions like these, without the power of

rendering help. Scores of human beings are from time to time flung to destruction, and no one can rescue them. The part of the coast to which we refer is that between the Humber and the Frith of Forth, two hundred miles in length; but the disasters in question happen chiefly towards the middle of that tract. This coast forms the boundary of the great highway from the south of Europe to the north; during the year, 135,000 vessels of all nations pass by, and for every day in the year it may be said that there are some 280 ships on this seaborde—an enormous risk of property off so dangerous a coast.

Now all this might be prevented, and easily. Just in the centre of that dangerous coast is the river Tyne, which could be converted into a harbour of refuge capable of holding 1500 vessels or more. This has been admitted; a Government inspector has arranged plans for removing the tidal bar, which alone closes the Tyne; the Tyne Commissioners, appointed by three towns on the river, have adopted the plan; and they have powers to raise 20,000*l.* by local taxation. It is not enough. As much as 35,000*l.* will be wanted; and, at the rate of taxation which the Commissioners can raise, the sum may be provided in eighteen or twenty years, during which time the property risked, for about a year's purchase of which the harbour could be provided. A deputation has come up from the Tyne towns to ask Government to lay down half the money at once, and then the people of the place will raise the other half, also at once.

They have not been very warmly received: the President of the Board of Trade was cool, the First Lord of the Admiralty pleaded war prospects as a reason against outlay. The true question, however, is independent of war or any other accident. Indeed, the prospect of war strengthens the Tyne case, since it adds the chance of an enemy to the chance of a storm. And there is no getting over this fact—that, as a mere matter of insurance, it would be sound policy to make the works as fast as possible, rather than to keep them incomplete for twenty years, when a year's purchase of the property at stake is the amount wanted; while the Tyne men who possess the harbour, and have but a fraction of interest in the property, will furnish half the money. Here, most assuredly, time is money saved, delay is the shipwreck of argosies.

#### THE NET INDUSTRIAL FARM.

The industrial farm maintained by the Guardians of the Thanet Union is an experiment of more than local interest, and we do but observe our annual custom in drawing attention to the continued success of that experiment. The accounts have been forwarded to us in detail, and they are more satisfactory than they were even last year. The farm has been decidedly advancing under the culture of its pauper labourers. On the side of expenditure, we find a total of 284*l.*; on the opposite side a total of 409*l.*; leaving a favourable balance of 125*l.*

But even more important than the money balance is the moral balance. We have before noticed the effect of the farm, in operating as a check upon mere idlers, who sought to live upon the poor-rates in squalid dependency, without earning their bread; we have now another proof of the advantage of such an institution. Under the able instruction of Mr. H. G. Holloway, the schoolmaster, the younger inmates have been trained to earn their bread; his kindly manner of teaching has instilled into their minds a due sense of industry, its duties and advantages; and several of the boys who are now out into the world have profited by this paternal care.

From what we hear of the farm, we can only hope that the Guardians will persevere in the course that they have pursued with so much success; believing that their own intelligence will enable them to improve as they proceed. For example, in the industrial farm at Sheffield, which the Union clerk, Mr. Watkinson, conducted through so many difficulties with so much ability, it was found that labour in the open air positively required, as well as earned, a better diet than that permitted in the house. But this point, as well as the due encouragement of efficient officers, such as Mr. Holloway, is so evident, that men whose intelligence has led them into this interesting experiment can scarcely miss the right course.

#### A "STRANGER" IN PARLIAMENT.

WHEN Lord Clarendon, fatuously explaining his noxious delusions with regard to his faith in Russian diplomacy, said that he would as soon have thought of doubting the assurances of the Czar as the word of one of their lordships, their right honourable lordships hear-heard, and all the papers, proud of the superiority of the British, exclaimed "You see there!" and universally it was supposed that no one ever did doubt the word of a peer of England. It is yet remarkable that a prominent political circumstance of the week is the contention, on three successive evenings, in the House of Lords, between Lord Aberdeen and Lord Malmesbury, as to whether the former peer of the realm had not very distinctly told a very emphatic fib. It is most remarkable that, last evening, in the too polite discussion, there was a clear disclaimer on all parties' side that they credited a single word the other party had been saying. Thus Lord Aberdeen, very grave, but very clever, admitted that, after the declaration of innocence by the Foreign-office clerk, he could not for a moment think of continuing his (Lord Aberdeen's) insinuation with reference to that gentleman; but, at the same time, he begged to say that he had not made the insinuation without the clearest moral conviction of its accuracy; and he also begged to say that "I own, my Lords, when I said on Tuesday that I would leave it to the gentleman himself to say whether or not he was guilty, I never did expect that he would have ventured to offer the denial which has now been offered." What did this mean? Simply that Lord Aberdeen didn't believe a word the young gentleman had said; and that Lord Aberdeen was craftily and ironically apologetic. Yet the dozen ladies present were making up their minds to consider the young gentleman, when they met him, a martyr entitled to society's caresses; Lord Derby issued a flatulent hear—hear, to give the cue; and it was understood by all the two dozen right honourable peers present that nothing more was to be said. But the farce didn't end there. Lord Derby returned to his insinuation, out of which Lord Aberdeen's arose, and insisted, notwithstanding the blunt denials of Lord Aberdeen last Monday, that the *Times* could only have got its late surprising secret news through the instrumentality of a Cabinet Minister, i.e. of a man forfeiting his engagements to his colleagues. And Lord Derby added that as the news couldn't come through Foreign-office clerks, couldn't come from abroad, could only come from a Cabinet Minister, and had not come from Lord Aberdeen, he (Lord Derby) was sure something was wrong somewhere; and, accordingly, he gave notice that if the *Times* should continue to be the most interesting paper in Europe, by getting earlier information touching the government of the world than can be got at even by such a gossiping noble as Lord Derby (who, in this speech, innocently told two or three Cabinet secrets, and indicated that he had watched who dined with Lord Aberdeen, and what journalists were most frequently seen prowling about Downing-street—all his small facts telling of his petty nature), then he would have the *Times* up to the bar! What did this mean? Simply that Lord Derby was suggesting that he didn't believe the word of Lord Aberdeen. Every one knew what it meant; and Lord Derby's threat, which was delivered with an emphasis that was passionate, would have been taken as a very serious matter, but that Lord Aberdeen, in a quiet but unscrupulously crafty way, hoarsely hear-heared the denunciation, and thus, to Lord Derby's astonishment, made Lord Derby sit down, looking silly. All the world agrees with Lord Derby that Lord Aberdeen was not exact in his repudiation of such a connexion with the *Times* as might account for the news that journal gives Lord Clarendon as to what the British Cabinet is doing: and, not elegantly, but forcibly, Lord Malmesbury hinted the general suspicion that our Premier would be more dignified if he were more candid. But Lord Malmesbury's congenial quotation from Sancho Panza was tantamount to giving Lord Aberdeen—the lie; and as the Ministers silently and humbly endured it, and as Lord Aberdeen himself, who too much despises

parliamentary proceedings, and too greatly scorns Lord Derby, sardonically cheered the insult, it must be confessed that the Cabinet bench did not look grand—not as Lord Clarendon's remorseless truth-tellers should look.

For other reasons beyond those suggested in these discussions, the Ministry has not had a happy aspect all this week. Not to mention the disastrous circumstance on Monday of Lord Palmerston losing his temper, and, with it, a considerable share of the admiration conditionally extended to him (in anticipation of that possible Premiership which is to climax symmetrically a career of official promotion) by the pious and placid middle class delegating Mr. Bright to rebuke martial jocularity in "responsible" statesmen:—not to dwell upon (though Mr. Disraeli will for some time live upon) Sir James Graham's indiscretions,—his last being an explanation even worse than the Reform Banquet offence, inasmuch as it was the ungraceful explanation of a dull but spiteful old gentleman:—not to make anything of these points of the Opposition,—though really when youths of sixty and seventy, with half a century of Parliamentary experience, blunder and bully after this fashion, one begins to give in to the theory that veterans are just as unfit for the chief affairs of state as for the chief affairs of war,—what are we to think of a Coalition Government, including all the talents, which so slightly impresses its subordinates with sense as to permit to a red-tap F. Peel, with blotter hair, cream-laid complexion, and sealing-war gestures, to rise in the House of Commons—the House just at present engaged in Corruption-cure Bills—and to defend the appointment to a colonial judgeship of a Stonor, convicted of electioneering malpractices? Of course Mr. F. Peel, one of those distinguished statesmen who inherit portfolios and M.P.-dom for reasons with which an enlightened country is not particularly acquainted, perhaps because it is so used to the Commons as well as the Lords being hereditary that it never cares to inquire,—of course Mr. F. Peel had on a Thursday, and again last night (when, fresh from St. Patrick's Day festivities, a host of tipsy Irish members, cheered by tipsy young English members, made a raid upon him, and he being annihilated, upon each other) to apologize for what he had said on Tuesday. Of course the Mr. Stonor, whose appointment Mr. F. Peel "on the whole" refused to cancel, is to be sacrificed, and is to be kicked out, a ruined and blasted man: and Mr. F. Peel is not ashamed, and is not shy, and will week after week go on, as a crack Minister, although he thus elaborately and conscientiously demonstrates his incapacity to appreciate even so small a matter of *tactique* as managing a bureau *in re* a Stonor. Of course the Duke of Newcastle, who is also a possible Premier, and wishes to make the acquaintance of the country, which his being a Duke renders difficult, and leaves him at a disadvantage as competing with the other possible Premiers by whom the Coalition Cabinet is crowded,—of course the Duke of Newcastle no sooner heard of Mr. F. Peel's "on the whole" opinion in answer to Mr. Moore—a man Mr. F. Peel thought was of no consequence, because he sits below the gangway and talks with a pronounced Mayo accent, and entertains a Cassandraish style of political oratory—than the Duke of Newcastle swore (officially) at Mr. F. Peel, and peremptorily ordered that solid but disciplined and not sensitive young man to go down to the House and confess that he had for once been slightly too red-tap—and that, in fact, is short, he had made a fool of himself. Of course the Duke of Newcastle, at once a very bold man and a very prudent man, would not risk scandal by the retention of a Stonor: he would not give such a handle to an Opposition which is eager to prove, out of that desire which all the bad have to discover that there is no good, that the Government is not passionately in earnest in introducing schemes for the purification of the picked but philosophical constituency of a country which is renowned over the whole world for its Christianity being so much more real than the Christianity of the Emperor of Russia. Stonor will, accordingly, descend from the bench, and will take his place, in lieu, on that political shelf which is so admirable a stand-point for clever English barristers who have a tendency to moralise on the morality of their own, their native, land. Stonor's friends, Keogh and Sadleir, who have great influence with

the Duke of Newcastle, who believes Ireland is only to be governed in a popular spirit, and who thinks that Keogh and Sadleir are the men to keep a Government well in with the priests,—will write long letters to Stonor explaining:—"My dear Stonor,—It's a deuced bad business; but it can't be helped. Moore is so vindictive, and had been heard to speak to Disraeli on the matter; so you must lie by, and let it blow over. Hope you've good weather in Victoria. No news. Yours truly, &c."—And the matter will blow over; and Mr. F. Peel will look as solemn and wise as ever, and will as much as ever look down on his brother—who is called "Elastic Bands" to distinguish him from "Red Tape"—as "impulsive," and "so inaccurate." And though the leading journal, which turns round twice a week, and which is shocked at electoral immorality, calls for general justice à la Stonor, and demands that nobody who bribes should get anything,—an arrangement which would considerably relieve Hayter's mind, in answering the applications of independent members,—still it is possible that no remarkable change will very soon be made in ordinary political arrangements. The Duke of Newcastle has dragged Mr. Stonor from the bench; but there is no doubt that the Duke of Newcastle (unless Moore kills Sadleir in the inevitable duel, consequent upon the feverish scene of last night, and so gets on a new committee of awkward private investigation) will do all he can to get a judgeship for his pleasant little friend, Mr. Keogh, who probably knows how it came about that Stonor, an English barrister, got to bribing in the back streets of an Irish borough. And though the Irish Member Morality Committee is expected to make rather a strongish report, to the effect that certain poor, but philosophical Hibernian gentlemen contrive at once to serve their country and get lots of patronage, which they sell to the highest bidder, still there is no reason to suppose that any large number of Irish representatives will be expelled, or that, if they were, their excessively Catholic and Christian country would not send men like them back again—priests excelling in nephews and cousins,—and Duffyites having no bowels for the claims of family against the claims of nationality. Stonor is to be unwigged, as having a bosom unworthy of the ermine, but will Coppock—he of a corps of Stonors,—be less affectionately greeted? Will Stafford, who made a self-governed country pay for his hotel bills, and who sold the navy that he might buy votes,—will Stafford rush to a Sabine farm and repose under branches and read the Georgics in a Hundred of Chiltern? Will any one of those members, who owe their seats in the enlightened People's House to the vigorous villainy which feeds Stonors and degrades electoral Englishmen, resign, and rush in search of death into the ranks of those brave troops who are on their way to bewilder the harems, and defend the honour of Turkey? No: if when Stonor returns, he gets a seat in the Strangers' Gallery, he will see and hear many debates, in which all the debaters either have had transactions with Brown or Coppock, or have availed themselves of that charming fact distinguishing our happy land—viz., that "property always has its influence," which means that, if you own a whole borough or half a county, you will have sufficient Britons, who never shall be slaves, to get you within range of Mr. Speaker's eye.

Unless, indeed, as Lord John would say, we get the Reform Bill made law this session—with its Corruption-cure "riders," which only those of great faith, like the unsophisticated Mr. Hume (who two years ago, commenting on Lord John's democracy speech, said he didn't believe in Lord John), are disposed to believe. We are to have a (proposed) second reading of the bill: and we are to have the bill defeated, and a Cabinet crisis: and several applications from independent members have already reached Lord Aberdeen, who will remember everything but the names of the applicants, for the places of Sir William Molesworth and Mr. Osborne—Lord John's payless place not interesting any one outside the Cabinet. But what then? Lord John Russell will sit on a back bench instead of a front bench, and will have more time to get up those clever anecdotes of his which never tell: and Sir William Molesworth will return to his historical task, so worthy of a British Radical, of obtaining (when he is

awake) self-government for the colonies, the home country having got all that sort of thing already; and Mr. Bernal Osborne will reappear in debate, and publicly crack some private jokes—such as that it is quite official for a Lord of the Admiralty to be half seas over, and that Sir James Graham was only inspecting the state of the Baltic fleet when he got into a "mess." But that is all: a Whig party cannot be reconstructed while all the Whigs are saying that "Reform" is Lord John's crotchet; a coalition is likely to be a normal condition of our politics for some time to come; and even in Opposition, if Lord John sought to be an Opposition leader, the utmost he could hope would be to lead a Coalition Opposition. He could not venture to impede Government by pertinacity, out of office, with his deplorable Reform Bill, that no one cares about; and nothing can be clearer than this, that not even on the question of Reform could he control the idolatrous Radicals who, for the nonce, surprise him, as well as ruin him, by insisting that they have confidence in him. And Lord John would not lead Manchester in opposition; and no Liberal leader can do anything in this country unless he secures Manchester. As long as Manchester supported the present Coalition it was very strong. Manchester, which wants conditions about the war and reality about the Reform Bill, is now dead against the Coalition. War was declared on Monday, when Mr. Bright showed up Lord Palmerston, Sir James Graham, and Sir William Molesworth; and when Mr. Cobden keenly ridiculed the indignation of those personages by the remark that, when a man got into a passion and talked of his indifference and contempt, the said man was most probably doing a very silly thing; and the prediction may be safely ventured on that, if Manchester is not appeased, which Mr. Disraeli will endeavour to prevent, neither Lord Aberdeen nor Lord John will get on very well or very comfortably. As to Lord Palmerston, who has now for the second time within the memory of the new Parliament expressed his derision of liberals, it is to be hoped we shall hear no more from the Dudley Stuart or Deadly stupid class of Radicals of that noble viscount's anxiety about the struggling nationalities on the Continent. But that is hoping much. There is Sir James Graham, who every session commits some grotesque stupidity, and yet session after session we hear of Sir James Graham's tremendous capacity as "a first-rate man, sir." Men will believe anything who will believe Lord Aberdeen when he repudiates the statement that the Government organ is the Government organ.

If Lord John would rise above his resolution to spite a Lord Grey, and gain the approbation of a Joe Hume or Jack Shelley, and would note the signs of the times, he would see that the present phase of the Parliamentary Reform question is this—ought there to be a Parliament at all during a war? Lord Malmesbury was loudly heard-heard on Monday, when he suggested that a constitutional Government was at a great disadvantage, in carrying on a war, in not being enabled to enforce "secrecy" of deliberation and operation: and that distinguished Whig, Earl Fitzwilliam, was also applauded by the Lords, and would get the majority of the votes of the House of Commons, in the argument that "The Press" was a nuisance. Last night, what could be more "inconvenient" than the questions put to Ministers about Neutrals? Not that they gave any answers that we could understand; and not, indeed, that our constitutional Government, doesn't, after all, contrive, to obtain more "secrecy" than such an excellent despotism as that of our beloved ally, Louis Napoleon, cares to seek for. But it vexes Ministers: teases Foreign-office clerks: and the Senate not being after all instructed, the Senate begins to think, and then the public, that, perhaps, it would be just as well, and not less dignified, if Mr. Layard got no opportunity of making resultless speeches, and if the Houses agreed to be prorogued till,—her Majesty wanted more money. It is the almost universal argument that while a war is being carried on no other "question," not even that of "Reform," ought to be entertained: and if the fact happens to turn out, on the one hand, that no question is entertained, and on the other that the

Parliament is told nothing whatever about the war, except that what the newspapers tell is all false, which the newspapers the day after can tell themselves, with the conscientiousness which distinguishes British journalism in the enjoyment of idiots for foreign correspondents, the obvious inquiry is this—why should there be a Parliament while there is a war? Is it to get "papers"? Observe that Lord Derby, one of the governing classes, said on Monday that he was aware of the existence of the to-be celebrated correspondence between the Russian and English Courts, but that he would never have thought of mentioning anything about the matter to the enlightened country, had it not been for the Czar's spite, and the *Times'* "d—d good-natured friend"-liness. Observe, also, that Mr. Disraeli, the all but reckless leader of a discontented Opposition, said, the same night, that he "fully" admitted the necessity of a Government striking out all the "confidential passages" (that is, the passages that would tell anything) from the papers laid before Parliament; and he went on to make a formal request, that as the to-be celebrated papers about the aforesaid correspondence were of an exceptional character, only to be produced by an accidental necessity, they should not be, in point of fact, "cooked." Will this wonderful country ever get out of its traditions that it is free, and face such things as such observations imply? Will the country never see that the governing classes have the most hearty contempt for it and its delusions?

By-and-by, "after Easter," the Coalition—of whomsoever it may then be composed—will get Parliament prorogued till Christmas, and then our Government will enjoy the "secrecy" Lord Malmesbury sympathetically extols. But not till all the money is voted; and, to get the money voted with rapidity, it is suggested that Mr. Gladstone should endeavour to avoid the double column of attack on the income-tax, led by Mr. Disraeli and Mr. Hume, by taking Sir Charles Wood's permanent advice to Finance Ministers in a mess—to take back his budget. Mr. Gladstone will be mortified, but he has confessed one great error—and he is practising to confess that this year's budget won't do—though it may pass, thanks to tamed Radicals. Louis Napoleon's war finance has given England a lesson; and the coalition may be quite certain that they will have to go to a loan. Financial Reform Association theories explode in the presence of great facts; and as a war opens Mr. Hume will see that no country will consent to be so virtuous as to "pay its way." We are not more honest than our fathers, and our fathers insisted that we should pay the expenses of their magnanimous wars to restore the Bourbons. In now undertaking as great a war (in company with him who is nephew of the man the last war was to put down) to preserve the Turks, which is quite as chivalrous as the attempt to restore the Bourbons—and even more spiritedly impracticable—we are quite certain to insist that our sons and grandsons shall share so much of the glory as is included in the participation of the cost.

Saturday Morning.

A STRANGER.

**THE PROTESTANT IDEA.**—Protestantism has done great things for us. Our princes might enjoy the release afforded by the Reformation from their dependence on Rome, and certain advantages in regard to territory and regal dignity: but all these were small matters in comparison with the benefit to our fathers and ourselves of the clear conception of the right of free inquiry and private judgment, and of the political liberties which follow from these personal prerogatives. When our Elizabeth was the central power of Protestantism, hated by the old world of Europe, and idolised by the new mind that was growing up, the English nation was alive in every fibre. How its heart beat when the news came that the Spanish Armada was on the sea! How its pulses throbbed when its sovereign called it out to defend its shores and all the liberties within them! And how the people rallied as one man when the procession of sails appeared in the channel, as if England and Spain had come up against each other like heaven and hell! If it had been heaven and hell, our fathers could not have been more alive,—more full of purpose and duty, or of the sublime joy that attends upon them. Then was established our dominion of the sea; and then arose the first clear conviction that the interests of the sovereign and the people were one. It is the fashion in Catholic countries to make out that Protestantism was a great curse to us by occasioning the strife between the Episcopalians and the Puritans; but the answer is found in the position held by England in Cromwell's time. The continental relations of England during the protectorate were such as no monarch but Elizabeth had ever conceived of. We were able to help the weak and awe the strong. To "avenge the slaughtered saints," victims of Catholicism, became soon unnecessary, because our mere reprobation sufficed. In the strength of our hearts we conquered on every side; and the world, seeing us in earnest, waited on our bidding. This was because we had a conviction to work from, and a duty to do.—*Westminster Review.*

## Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

LITERATURE loses an ornament, and men of Letters a friend, in THOMAS NOON TALFOURD, who this week died on the Judge's bench in the very act of addressing the Grand Jury. He died young,—fifty-eight is young for such men. But he had lived long enough to earn distinction at the bar, and eminence in Literature seldom attained by men distinguished at the bar; he had lived long enough to connect his name with the Literature of our day, and to make his name pleasantly and affectionately remembered in every circle. Early in life we hear of the young student welcomed among the distinguished guests of CHARLES LAMB, writing criticisms on the young MACREADY, reporting for the press, and contributing to the *London Magazine*. His profession then absorbs him; but not wholly, as *Ion* testifies. The success of *Ion*, at first printed privately and eulogised in the *Quarterly*, then timidly represented "for one night" on the occasion of MACREADY's benefit, then—the success being too great for timidity or modesty to prevail—played for many nights, till it became a "stock piece." It was succeeded by the *Athenian Captive*, which has not held its place on the stage; and by *Glencoe*, which was almost a failure. Besides these tragedies he has written *Vacation Rambles* and *Memorials of Charles Lamb*; and further showed his devotion to Literature by numberless graceful acts of kindness and sympathy.

Another death has also to be recorded, that of the greatest tenor of our day, RUBINI, who died at Bergamo in his sixtieth year, having left the stage some ten or eleven years. In the *Musical World* we read a Memoir from which an extract or two may interest:—

"Before he was eight years old, he sang in the churches, or took a violin part in the orchestra. Some time later, he was confided to the care of Don Santo, a priest and organist at Adro, near Brescia, who had some knowledge of harmony and singing. After having tried the voice of young Rubini, he came to a decision that the child had no dispositions for the vocal art, and sent him back to his father. The latter, however, persuaded that the organist of Adro was wrong in his opinion, continued to give lessons to his son, who at the age of twelve made his *début* on the stage in a woman's part. After this essay, Rubini went to Bergamo, where he had contracted an engagement to play violin solos in the *extr'actes*, and to sing in the choruses. His first attempt as a singer in the theatre at Bergamo was in an air by Lamberti, which was introduced in a comedy. His success was triumphant, and he obtained from the *impresario* a reward in money equivalent to about four shillings. The remembrance of this event was often a source of gaiety to Rubini, when he afterwards became celebrated. Nevertheless, he had the vexation to see his triumph effaced by the refusal of the director of the Opera at Milan to admit him among the choruses, on the plea that he had not sufficient voice. The only resource left him was to embrace an offer to join a strolling troupe of singers who were just setting out for Piedmont. At Fossano, Saluzzo, and Vercelli, he was entrusted with the first tenor parts. At the last-mentioned town he became acquainted with a violinist named Madi, with whom he associated himself for the purpose of giving concerts. A *tournée* through Alexandria, Novi, and Valenza, however, proved unsuccessful, and they were compelled to return to Vercelli. The ill-luck which accompanied Rubini in all his excursions induced him to retire from the strolling troupe, and proceed to Milan, in the chance of finding employment. At Milan, the only chance he obtained was an engagement for the autumn season, at Pavia, on a salary of less than two pounds a month. His success there was so great, that he was invited to Brescia for the Carnival in 1815, with the magnificent sum of 40*l.* for three months."

This sum of 40*l.* for three months is piquantly to be contrasted with the sums which great singers receive in Paris and London, and with what RUBINI himself received there:—

"On the 6th of October, 1825, Rubini made his first appearance in Paris, as Ramiro in *La Cenerentola*. The charm of his voice, that peculiar style which belonged to himself alone, and was founded on no preceding model, the elegance of his vocalisation, and the rare good taste displayed in his ornaments and *floriture*, ensured his triumph. *La Donna del Lago*, *La Gazza Ladra*, and *Otello* confirmed his reputation, and the critics unanimously pronounced him the 'King of Tenors.' Barbaja, who had ceded Rubini to the administration of the *Théâtre Italien*, reclaimed him at the expiration of six months. Once more in Naples, the now great singer was speedily despatched to Milan, and thence to Vienna, where he had already been in 1824. In the interval, Bellini's *Pirate* and *Sonnambula*, and Donizetti's *Anna Bolena*, had provided Rubini with that particular character of music which specially suited his organization and his talent, and in which he showed himself far superior to what he had been in the operas of Rossini. Bellini and Rubini seemed born for each other, and their mutual glory to depend on their continued union. It was from this epoch (1826) that the incontestable superiority of Rubini, in a special kind of music, over all contemporary singers, was declared. In the operas we have cited he first made use of those frequent contrasts of *forte* and *piano*, which, for fifteen years, was the most distinctive characteristic of his talent, and which he must be admitted to have abused by excess, although by its means he was accustomed to excite the liveliest transports of his hearers. This contrast was the stamp of his individuality; and through it he created a manner, or (mannerism), the imitators of which have unfortunately been always painfully inferior to their model.

"Until 1831, Rubini remained the exclusive property of Barbaja, who raised his salary (the greater part of which, of course, went into the pockets of the cunning *entrepreneur*) to 60,000 francs (2400*l.*). At length, freed from responsibility, he returned to Paris, where he excited the greatest enthusiasm in *Il Pirata*, *Anna Bolena*, *La Sonnambula*, and other operas of the new *répertoire*. The absolute frenzy created among the Parisian *dilettanti* by his execution of the airs, 'Tu vedrai sventurata,' 'Vivi tu,' and 'Tutto è sciolto,' in those operas, surpassed anything before or since.

"In the same year, Rubini made his first appearance at her Majesty's Theatre in London, in Bellini's *Il Pirata*, in company with his wife, Madame Rubini,\* who was engaged as *prima donna*. His reception, until the last scene, was cold, and he failed to move the audience into any display of enthusiasm; but 'Tu vedrai sventurata' awoke them from their trance, and Rubini triumphed in London as he had triumphed in Paris. From 1831 to 1841 he was engaged alternately, every year, six months in Paris, and six months in London, and at the English provincial festivals—except in 1838, when he passed the summer at his native place in Bergamo. His reputation continually increased, and his great successes caused him to be regarded as the first tenor of the age. His gains surpassed those of any of those singers whom fortune has most favoured. During the year which immediately followed the termination of his engagement with Barbaja, Rubini earned 125,000 francs (5000*l.*); and, from that time forward, his actual income was something more than 200,000 francs (8000*l.*). In 1841, he was supposed to be worth two millions and a half of francs—or 100,000*l.*"

\* Her last season as a public singer was Rubini's first in London.

RUBINI had great faults, but for large impassioned singing, for exquisite execution, and a voice of thrilling tenderness, he has never been equalled in our time.

The new number of *The London Quarterly* is more theological than suits our tastes, but we must suppose it to be an excess acceptable to the subscribers. There is a very interesting paper on *Madagascar*, and one on the *Mormons*, which suggests strange reflections on the sagacity of men sifting the "evidences of Mormonism," who never think of applying that sagacity to the evidences of Christianity. *The Tendencies of Modern Poetry* are treated in a review of *ALEXANDER SMITH* and *Balder*, but not with any remarkable superiority.

One of the greatest discoveries of our day is that made by CLAUDE BERNARD, of the constant formation of sugar in the liver of animals. Feed an animal how you will—with food containing saccharine matters, and with food containing no trace of them, you always find the animal has, from the blood, formed sugar for itself. This sugar, which is secreted by the liver, is, like all secretions, under the influence of the nervous system; you have only to cut what are called the pneumogastric nerves, and in a few hours all the sugar vanishes.

The amount of sugar thus formed in every healthy animal may be increased by certain influences, and then it gives rise to, or is the indication of, various diseases. In one disease the quantity is so great that M. THÉAS extracted 15 kilogrammes of sugar (something like thirty pounds) from the secretions of one patient! Real sugar, too, and of irreproachable taste according to BOUSSINGAULT, who tasted it.

But now attend to this: what Nature does in disease Man can do in the terrible theatre of Experiment. CLAUDE BERNARD has proved that there is a very small region of the spinal column (by anatomists styled the *medulla oblongata*), the wounding of which (between the origin of the pneumogastric and acoustic nerves) provokes this increased secretion of sugar, and if with a sharp instrument you wound a dog or a rabbit in this place, you will find that in a little while sugar has accumulated to an immense extent in the blood and other liquids. One trembles to think of the commercial application of this discovery! Instead of Uncle Tom perspiring among the sugar-canies for amiable LEGREES, we see an European LEGREE collecting together a menagerie of animals, pricking their spinal cords, and opening a new field to commercial enterprise with the sugar thus obtained. Imagine Mrs. Jones mixing in her tea the sugar extracted from a favourite cat, whose sudden disappearance she deplores! Imagine the sudden rise in the market of cats and curs! Perhaps benevolent BURKES and HARES might be found who would thus utilize superfluous Christians! It is a discovery with vast horizons.

## SINGLE VISION WITH TWO EYES.

*The Eye in Health and Disease; with an Account of the Optometer, for the adaptation of Glasses; being the Substance of Lectures at the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital* By Alfred Smeé, F.R.S. Second Edition. Price 5*s.* Longman and Co.

This very interesting little work is addressed to the general public as well as to the medical profession, and contains valuable matter in the form of advice to all persons who may suffer from any of the manifold defects and diseases of the eye; especially valuable advice to all who use or are about to use spectacles and other glasses; and, lastly, matter interesting to the philosophical inquirer. There is also an account of the stereoscope and binocular perspective affixed to this edition. Plates and diagrams increase the usefulness of the book.

Why with two eyes we have only single vision has always been a vexed problem. The revelations of the stereoscope, which show that in each visual picture there are two distinct images seen at different angles, destroy the once popular explanation which attributed the singleness of vision to the decussation of the optic nerves; if, indeed, such proof were necessary in presence of the fact we have more than once insisted on, of men having but one sound with two ears, one scent with two nostrils, one touch with two hands, in all which cases no decussation of the nerves can be adduced. Mr. Smeé has offered a solution of the problem which we can by no means accept. He says "that we mentally know that two objects cannot be in the same place at the same time; and therefore if the two images formed in the eyes are both to our reason in the same spot, it of necessity happens that we see but one, and not two objects." That no such metaphysical explanation can be valid may easily be shown. Fire two pistols at precisely the same instant, and although reason tells you that there are two sounds, sensation will tell you of but one. In an orchestra, if the instruments are perfect in tune and time, your reason is perfectly aware of a multiplicity of instruments, but each set (say the violins) produces but one sensation. But let the pistols not be fired simultaneously, let the violins be inexact in time or tune, and then you have two or more sounds. The explanation we would offer is this: two simultaneous and similar sensations are necessarily merged into one, their similarity and simultaneity prevents our distinguishing any difference, and unless we distinguish some difference we cannot have more than one sensation. When an object falls upon two eyes, it produces two similar images simultaneously; when the two hands or the two fingers touch one object, the sensation derived from each hand being similar and the two being simultaneous, we only feel one object. In the well known experiment of feeling the tip of your nose with crossed fingers and thereby receiving the impression of two tips, the simultaneity and precise similarity of the impressions are destroyed by pressure on the crossed finger. So likewise in the experiment of seeing an object double by slightly pressing the eye from its place.

Unless we perceived differences we could have but one sensation. It is the similarity and simultaneity of sensation from two eyes and two ears which constitute single vision and single audition. Mr. Smees's explanation will neither meet the cases just mentioned, nor will it ever explain why, in spite of reason, we have two sensations from an object known to be single. The explanation we have suggested is, we believe, novel; let the reader pronounce on its truth.

Before sending the reader to Mr. Smees's work for information on the various topics it treats so well we will cite the following passage for the sake of its practical bearing:—

"Our organs of vision enable us to judge whether an object be at rest or in motion. We appreciate motion from being obliged to move the eye to maintain a distinct image of the object; and in this case you also perceive that our sense of motion in the muscles gives rise to the idea of motion. The limited field of distinct vision must much contribute to the accuracy of our idea of the motion of a body. You may observe many curious effects of apparent rest and motion on the river steamers, whether other boats are at rest or in motion around you. To judge of motion in other bodies you must either be at rest or know your own rate of progression, or you may be led into curious errors. Motion directly towards or from you is a phenomenon very difficult to appreciate, but you will find that binocular vision assists you materially to judge of the effect. Besides our estimate of motion by the muscles of the eyeball, we must also take into consideration the action of the muscle of the head in some cases: hence, our idea of motion as deduced from our sense of muscular movements is a very complex affair."

"The eye, in its normal state, is influenced by the seven colours of the spectrum, appreciates each colour, and views white light uncoloured. By the optical apparatus objects are depicted apparently free from spherical aberration, and act upon the retina. It is, indeed, a beautiful sight to observe the inverted image which is formed upon the retina of an animal, and which may be seen by scraping away the back part of the sclerotic.

"After the image is formed upon the retina it takes a certain time for the idea of vision to be consummated, which has been determined to be the one-eighth of a second, on which account an object in rapid rotatory motion appears as a circle, because the impression endures till the object acts again.

"The fact of time being required for vision has an important bearing upon railway accidents, as it is quite manifest that only a certain number of objects can be seen every minute. Under the present system, the engine-driver has to look out for signals, regulate his engine, and attend to its working. Now, when an engine is travelling at sixty miles an hour, an immensity of objects has to be focused and observed before the engine can be driven with safety, and practically we find that if anything is amiss it is frequently unobserved, and a frightful accident is the result. The laws of vision indicate that a man's entire attention is required to inspect the road for safe travelling, and probably fifty or sixty miles are the limit of inspection at one time.

"When a fatal accident occurs from the engine-driver having too much to do, he should be liable for manslaughter, as he has no business to undertake duties which he cannot possibly perform. The directors who employ him in so murderous a manner should be held criminally liable, besides being compelled to make large pecuniary compensation for any damage which may ensue."

#### MODERN POETS: RAZZIA THE SECOND.

Is commencing a second Razza among the "Poems," which like bees in summer have been crowding with murmurous clamour the entrance to the Hive of Parnassus, we must first dispose of a little brochure: *Selections from the Poetry of Heinrich Heine. Translated by John Ackerlos* (John Chapman), a curious little volume, which the translator modestly and truly says will give some idea of Heine's matter and manner, "but I am only too sensible that they do no justice whatever to the original. Neither have they been selected as Heine's best poems; there are better poems than any of these among his poetry. They were selected simply because they seemed to me to be most susceptible of translation without violence or great injustice, and in the main to be characteristic." There is no likelihood of the airy delicately-shaded poems of Heine meeting with adequate translation, and John Ackerlos has done wisely in leaving them unattempted. Unhappily the best specimen in his volume is the "wicked and witty" poem called *Disputation*, which, as he intimates, is "strong meat, and I entreat gentlemen of weak and ladies of all digestions not to meddle with it." Those who are not scared by Rabelaisic fun and language *sans feuille de sanguier*, can alone be told to read it. The translator holds out a hope of following up this volume with selections from Heine's prose: a better venture, we think.

The remarks we formerly made on the distinction between *cultivating* the accomplishment of verse as an elegant accomplishment, and *publishing* the products thereof, never seem to have occurred to the Rev. James Banks, whose *Nugae: the Solace of rare Leisure in Verse* (R. Hardwicke) has on the title page its condemnation. Poetry is an Art: an Art requiring, over and above the creative faculties, the severe discipline of creative labour. Young gentlemen and ladies may "dash off a stanza" as they "knock off a sketch." The thing is not difficult of accomplishment nor much worth accomplishing. Unless they give their lives to Art they will not produce works having life. It is not in moments of rare leisure that works are written, be those works no longer than a page each. The Rev. J. Banks "asks of the public a candid perusal. He does not deprecate criticisms from which he may gather wisdom; nor, on the other hand, court indulgence which might buoy him with false hopes. His delight is in versification, and he is not likely to forego it; though the favour or disfavour of the present effort may suggest much of improvement and amendment." Now let us ask Mr. Banks a plain question: the volume he has printed gives such evidence of an amiable accomplished mind that we feel we may speak to him in all sincerity. In asking the public for a candid perusal does he not see that he is asking what in another would be an impertinence? Suppose a man were to ask the public to come and hear him sing the music of Beethoven or Gluck, at the same time announcing that he had never trained himself as a singer, but had only given to the art some few intervals of leisure? Suppose another were to ask the public to come and candidly look at (having paid some shillings for the privilege) his pictures, he at the same time declaring Painting was not the Art he had been trained to, and these sketches were merely the result of his leisure? What would Mr. Banks say to such proposals? Yet, if he does not see that Poetry is an Art as difficult as these, he has yet to learn what Poetry is. That he has delight in versification, we are pleased to hear; it is a refined and refining pursuit. He versifies with talent, as we perceive. But might not the Singer and Painter say as much? We do not charge Mr. Banks with an impertinence—simply with a mistake. In publishing he has only followed the precedent of thousands; but no precedent will make it other than a

mistake. We have read several of the poems in this volume, but we have seen no single verse that—strictly speaking—justifies the publication of what has been a private pleasure. We urge him to continue by all means this elegant employment of rare leisure; but we urge him to remember the distinction between publicity and privacy. If he has anything to instruct the world let him use prose.

In the author of *Morbida; or, Passion Past, and other Poems* (Saunders and Otley), the mistake we have just commented on rises nearer to an impertinence, in the tone of jaunty carelessness with which he throws his acknowledged crudities upon the world:—

"Most of these pieces were written long ago. I am quite aware that it is no reasonable plea to state that they were written very rapidly; but I venture to mention the fact, as it is a kind of excuse. The second, third, forth, and fifth poems were written in about a dozen nights; and some of the others, of considerable length, at a single sitting each. Several are unfinished, and some much mutilated."

"I am conscious that I ought to endeavour to amend much of what I now commit to the press, and not to 'shoot' these clearings of my desk there; but I do not think it worth while to expend any pains upon such materials. I fear it would be in vain to try to make these compositions worth much: 'the foundations are too sandy.'"

He does not think it worth while to expend any pains in making these things better worth your acceptance. Did he but think it worth his while—ah! then, indeed, perhaps you might have gems; as it is, you have only diamond dust and filings! The author is too clever a man not to see—on reflection—the folly of all this.

Mr. William Thomas Thornton, already known, and favourably, to the world in prose (*Essay on Over-population* and *A Plea for Peasant Proprietors*), now courts the suffrages of poetical readers in a volume: *Zohrib; or, a Midsummer Day's Dream, and other Poems* (Longman and Co.), and he does so with full consciousness of what he is doing:—

"I shall not in these few lines of introduction be guilty of the transparent affectation, so frequently committed by writers on their first appearance in poetical costume, of depreciating my own performances; for if I thought ill of them myself, I should of course not needlessly expose them to the scrutiny of a tribunal whose judgment I could scarcely expect to be more lenient than my own. But though I may as well honestly confess, what it would be useless to deny, that I believe my 'attempts in verse' to be not inferior to those of many other authors, whose productions have been received with considerable favour by the public, and though unable to plead 'hunger or request of friends' in excuse for publishing them, I may at the same time declare that few of them would have been written, and none of them, assuredly, would have been printed, at least in this form, unless I had had in view a much higher object than that of either contributing to popular amusement or competing for popular applause."

And in what may be called the epilogue to the whole, we further read his purpose:—

"TO  
JOHN STUART MILL, ESQ.,

"IN IMITATION OF AN EPISTLE OF HORACE TO MECENAS.

"Dear Mill, whose friendship's kindly emphasis  
Approved my first work, and encouraged this,  
Scarce will you ask, why, from old studies turned,  
My name unknown, a pension yet unearned,  
Problems abstruse and tough, no more I try,  
Of dark Political Economy,  
Digging no more in serious dissertation  
To trace the source of *Over-population*,  
Nor publishing what hidden treasure lies  
Deep in the soil of *Peasant Properties*.  
Age tells on mind, and though my well-used quill,  
Not quite worn out, may do some service still,  
Not less my inward warning I regard,  
And fear to ride my hobby-horse too hard,  
Lest the tired jade, urged on beyond his strength,  
In some absurd extreme break down at length.  
Therefore I change my steed, and soaring higher,  
Of loftier truth and nobler good enquire,  
And in this quest, for my whole heart is in't,  
Cull and compose what presently I print."

The volume is, if not poetry in the strictest sense, at least the expression in verse of real feeling, sometimes touching—as where the sorrowing heart of a father mournfully yet hopefully alludes to the lost child—mostly reflective and religious. He should not, however, echo the old foolishness:—

"Were there no God, and were it true that Chance  
Is Nature's lawgiver perceived to be  
Supreme throughout infinity's expanse,  
And co-existent with eternity."

He must know that there is not a sane man who believes "Chance to be Nature's lawgiver," and that cheap refutations of non-existent absurdities are good neither in verse nor prose. The best poem in the volume is *Zohrib*—the theme recently treated by Matthew Arnold—which is a picturesque narrative unencumbered by "fine language." Of the sonnets we prefer this—for its sentiment:—

"With shame, almost with horror, we reject  
Their abject solace, who, of sin innate  
Calmly discourse, and wrath predestinate,  
Yet, for themselves, by partial grace elect,  
Exemption from the general doom expect.  
Such doctrine we disdain, of present hate  
Creating man, for wrath insatiate  
A helpless victim;—scorning to connect  
Hopes of salvation with divine caprice.  
A parent, not tyrant, we adore.  
Our God exacts not human sacrifice.  
And who his guardianship denies, not more  
Insensately blasphemous, than who imputes  
To Him a Moloch's monstrous attributes."

We have here two volumes by ladies—*Poems, by Anna Blackwell* (John Chapman), and *Summer Sketches and other Poems, by Bessie Rayner Parkes* (John Chapman), both of which display an unusual amount of the accomplishment, although neither would have been written had not other poets written before them. One peculiarity in these volumes is the predominance of reflection over feeling in them, and sometimes this reflection is expressed in language strong and clear. Here is a passage in which Miss Parkes eloquently utters the woman's view of the woman question:—

"Suppose some small philosopher declared  
'Man is a creature framed to such an end,

And this is his ideal, which attain'd  
He will not top; this is the possible  
Of his capacity, perhaps a fact  
At which ambitious struglers will rebel,  
But none less true for that, let him sit down  
And swallow it in silence.—Witness all,  
That this is said of women every day.  
Diverse in nature, with unsparing creed  
They limit hers, unseeing where it tends.—  
Girdle with iron bands the sapling tree,  
It shoots into deformity, but fie!  
Who first its feeble breath of life inspired  
Ordain'd its growth by an interior law  
To full development of loveliness,  
Whereof the planter wots not till he leaves  
It to the kindly care of elements  
And the free seasons' change of storm and shine.  
Not for a moment would I underrate  
That sweet ideal which has charm'd the world  
For ages, and will never cease to charm.  
Fair as the creatures of an upper sphere,  
Women among the charities of home  
Walk noiseless, undefiled; ah! who would wish  
To turn from this green fertilising course  
Such rills of promise! let each amplify  
In its own proper measure far and wide,  
According to its bounty; sacred be  
The radiant tresses of such ministers,  
And beautiful their feet; but with my voice,  
And with my pen, and with mine uttermost,  
I say this is not all, and even this,  
This loveliest life to hidden innate set,  
Must be a blossom of spontaneous growth,  
Must spring from aptitude and natural use  
Of gracious deeds, not hardly forced on all,  
As the soul good and fit, lest it decay  
Under the pressure to a loathsome thing,  
A thing of idleness and sensuous mind,  
At which the angels weep. If this be all,  
Speak, thou true heart, out from the hungry sea  
Which suck'd thee down just in thy fruit of life,  
Speak, wife and mother, from that unmark'd grave  
Which those so vainly seek who loved thee well,  
Speak, rather, Margaret, from thy seat in heaven,  
Where thou, in knowledge larger, but in love  
Scarce more perfect, dost those days recall  
Spent in strong aspiration and pursuit  
Of dim ideals, now reveal'd in full,  
With shape sustain'd and meanings more divine.  
Ah, could I give thy dear and honour'd name  
Some little tribute, who wert brave and bold,  
And faithful, as are few! 'Tis a small thing,  
An easy thing, to write such witty words  
As Lowell wrote to thee; 'tis a hard thing,  
A royal thing, to live so kind a life,—  
Dying, to leave so dear a memory,  
And such a want where thou wast wont to be."

To Anna Blackwell we have special praise to award for the careful finish of her poems. Although not an original writer, she has the serious feeling of an artist for her art; indeed, the literary excellence of her volume so far exceeds the poetic that we urge her to quit verse for prose: verse like porcelain being almost worthless if it is not perfect. Miss Parkes, on the other hand, is careless and impatient, and needs to be impressed with a more religious feeling for her art—if she persist in cultivating it at all. The world has too much fine poetry to care for the inferior works even of great poets; the least each new aspirant can do is to give the world *la crème de la crème*.

#### REFUTATION OF SPINOZA BY LEIBNITZ.

*Réfutation Inédite de Spinoza par Leibnitz. Précedée d'un Mémoire. Par A. Foucher de Careil.*

The newly-discovered treatise written in Leibnitz's own hand, of which we spoke recently, has been published in Paris, and a copy of it sent us by Mr. Nutt of Fleet-street, thus enabling us to early fulfil our promise of informing the reader as to its authenticity and value.

Of its authenticity there can be no doubt. The MS. still exists in the public library at Hanover, and M. Careil gives precise indications of its history and the cause of its neglect: it has been tied up in a bundle of papers bearing the name of Wachter, thus: *Animadversiones ad Joh. Georg. Wachteri librum de recondita Hebreorum philosophia*, which, on inspection, turns out to be the MS. of Leibnitz, and which contains what the admiring editor proclaims a complete refutation of Spinoza. But there are words which seem only used to be abused—"refutation" is one of them. And this attempt to refute Spinoza—although proceeding from one of the giants in metaphysics—turns out on inspection to be the stringing together of certain assertions which are opposed to the propositions cited. Thus, when Spinoza says that God is necessarily a cause, and the cause of all things, Leibnitz quietly says, "it is false. God exists necessarily, but he creates freely. God has created the forces of things, but these forces are distinct from the divine force. Things act by themselves, although they have received the force by which they act." Here is another sample of refutation—and very tolerable refutation, too, for metaphysics, which mainly consists of plays on words: "Spinoza is wrong in saying that the world is the effect of the divine nature, although he does give us to understand that it is not the effect of chance. There is a middle term between that which is necessary and that which is fortuitous: viz., that which is free." *Risum teneatis amici?* Can you gravely contemplate great intellects paying themselves with words in this way?

Throughout the whole of this refutation we only met with one phrase which seemed to us worthy of attention on the part of the Spinozist, and that is really a good metaphysical argument. It is where Leibnitz objects to Spinoza, that if the axiom *ex nihilo nihil fit* is to be admitted (he rejects it) then how can the Modes of Substance come into existence, since there is no Substance of Modes—no pre-existent Mode out of which all that exist are produced? We give in his own words the passage, just paraphrased:

*Ex nihilo aliquid fieri ad fictiones refert Spinoza. Sed revera modi qui sunt ex nihilo sunt. Cum nulla sit modorum materia certe nec modus nec eius pars praecessit sed alius qui evanuit et cui hic successit.*

That, as we said, is a really good metaphysical argument. It is, nevertheless, a mere play on words; as may be seen in this parallel passage, "Existence has various forms; yet we cannot say that Existence includes all that exists, because forms exist, and there is no Parent-form from which all forms proceed, consequently forms do not come under the category of Existence." With such logomachies will men amuse themselves, and waste the precious faculties which if directed towards science would enrich mankind! However, as there are Metaphysicians, and among our readers not only Metaphysicians but some curious—historically—in Metaphysics, we may commend this volume to them.

It contains the Rough notes—marginalia, as it were—of Leibnitz on Spinoza (and not a regular Treatise, as the title would imply), a translation, and an introductory Memoir by the editor of no great merit, but which settles the vexed question as to the obligations of Leibnitz to Spinoza.

#### BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

<i>Household Medicine and Surgery; Sick-Room Management and Cookery for Invalids. Part II.</i>	W. S. Orr and Co.
<i>Caleb Stukely. (The Family Illustrated Novelist.)</i>	Nathaniel Cooke
<i>Johnson's Lives of the British Poets. By W. Hazlitt. Vol. I.</i>	Nathaniel Cooke
<i>Crabbe's Tales. (The Universal Library.)</i>	Nathaniel Cooke
<i>Handley Cross; or, Mr. Jorrocks's Hunt.</i>	Bradbury and Evans
<i>The Pocket Peerage of Great Britain and Ireland. By H. R. Forster.</i>	David Bogue
<i>Walter Hurst; or, Early Struggles at the Bar. By H. G. Pelham, Esq. 2 vols.</i>	G. Routledge and Co
<i>Eugene Aram. By Sir E. Bulwer Lytton. (The Railway Library.)</i>	G. Routledge and Co
<i>Lyra Graeca: Specimens of the Greek Lyric Poets from Callinus to Souto. By J. Donaldson, M.A.</i>	J. Sutherland and Knott
<i>The Stratford Shakspere. By Charles Knight. Vol. I.</i>	T. Hodges
<i>The Tenant of Wildfell Hall. By Acton Bell. (The Parlour Library.)</i>	T. Hodges
<i>Truths Maintained. By J. Biden.</i>	Aylott and Jones
<i>Dress as a Fine Art. By Mrs. Merrifield.</i>	Arthur Hall, Virtue, and Co.
<i>The Chronicles of Merry England Rehearsed unto her People. By the Author of "Mary Powell."</i>	Arthur Hall, Virtue, and Co.
<i>The True Theory of a Church. By the Rev. T. G. Horton.</i>	J. Judd
<i>On the Life and Writings of Oliver Goldsmith. A Lecture. By G. E. H. Vernon, M.P.</i>	J. W. Parker and Son
<i>Whitaker's Educational Register—1854.</i>	J. Whitaker
<i>An Entirely new System of Conjugation, by which the principle of all the French Verbs can be understood in a few Hours</i>	E. Wilson
<i>Dramatic Register for 1853.</i>	T. H. Lucy
<i>Evenings in my Tent; or, Wanderings in Balad Ejareed. By the Rev. N. Davis, F.R.S.A. 2 vols.</i>	Arthur Hall, Virtue, and Co.
<i>The Works of the Right Honourable Joseph Addison. With Notes. By R. Hurd, D.D. Vol. II. (Bohn's British Classics.)</i>	H. G. Bohn
<i>The Works of William Cowper. Edited by Robert Southey, LL.D. Vol. III. (Bohn's Standard Library.)</i>	H. G. Bohn
<i>A Batch of War Ballads. By M. F. Tupper.</i>	T. Bowditch
<i>Mesmerism Proved True, and the Quarterly Reviewer Reviewed. By the Rev. C. H. Townshend, A.M.</i>	T. Bowditch
<i>The National Drawing Master and Self-Instructor's Practical School of Design. By W. A. Nicholls.</i>	J. Wesley and Co.
<i>Travels in Siberia. By S. S. Hill, Esq. 2 vols.</i>	Longman and Co.
<i>Introductory Lessons on the British Constitution.</i>	J. W. Parker and Son
<i>The Monthly Journal of Industrial Progress.</i>	W. B. Kelly
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<i>Observations on the Government Bill for abolishing the Removal of the Poor, and Redistributing the burden of Poor-rate.</i>	Longman and Co.
<i>Emmanuel Appadocca; or, Blighted Life. By Maxwell Philip. 2 vols.</i>	Charles J. Stict
<i>Objections to "The Coming Struggle." The Dead Sea, and its Explorers. (Library of Biblical Literature.)</i>	W. Newbery
	W. Freeman

#### The Arts.

##### THE DUCHESS ELEANOUR.

In noticing the failure of *The Lovelock* the other day I said that it arose from no one special defect in the story "so much as from the radical irreconcileable defect in the author—the total absence of the dramatic sense, power, instinct, art—call it what you will—which makes a man a dramatist." The production, on Monday last, at the HAYMARKET, of a new play, in five acts, by the author of the *Lovelock*, confirmed this judgment; for, although it escaped the summary verdict which damned, as we expressively say, the *OLYMPIC* piece, and although the applauders so far predominated over the hissers that the piece was announced for repetition on Wednesday and Friday, yet there is no disguising the fact that it was a failure, and a failure from the same radical defect as the one I noted in the *Lovelock*. Mr. Chorley has now had three five acts plays performed:—*Old Love and New Fortune* at the SURREY, the *Lovelock* at the *OLYMPIC*, and the *Duchess Eleanour* at the HAYMARKET—three failures of a clever man obstinately trying for success in a department where success is for him, I believe, impossible.

Dramatist, in the high sense of the word, he is not, for he has no power of conceiving and representing character, no power of clearly conducting a story through incidents. Dramatist, in the lower and theatrical sense, he is not, for he has not acquired, even by failure, the rudiments of stage art. The two plays of his, which I have seen, showed undeniable talent—but were never dramatic. The stories were incomprehensible, the motives elaborately concealed, the characters no characters at all, and the incidents so loosely strung together as only to irritate not satisfy curiosity. In this *Duchess Eleanour* there is more direct action, and a story more comprehensible than the *Lovelock*, hence its greater success; but if you attempt to tell the story you are forced—like the critic in the *Times*—to confess an inability to say "what it is all about." There was an idea in the author's mind, however; let me add, a good idea, and one which, had he possessed any dramatic

faculty, might have been effective. But the idea is lost in the execution. A young and brilliant actress is married to the great Duke of Ferrara. The proud and stately virtue of this Duchess makes her seem stern and cold to the courtiers, who know her not. Though why they know her not, and why she is stern, I haven't the slightest idea. This grand Duchess has, it seems, a father, who hates her—with motiveless hate, by the way; and this father is one of those melo-dramatic parents made up of every infamy, who play the part of demon in the lives of their virtuous daughters. He is such a fearful rascal, and has brought her up among such scenes of infamy, that she—believing him dead—never mentions him to her husband. When the play opens, the Duke—one of the incomprehensible no-characters of the work—is getting weary of his Duchess; and, at this point, the scampish father reappears.

Now, this is really a good dramatic situation. But to make it one of interest as well as truth very different treatment was necessary. In the first place, the author should have interested us in the Duchess. He has not done so. We quite sympathise with the Duke's weariness. We do not see adequate motive for her silence on that ugly chapter in her early life. She, a woman whose truth is somewhat fatiguingly dwelt upon, she who is *said* (not shown) to love the Duke with devoted passion, would have told him of her infancy—told him of her father. At any rate, she would have wished to tell him; wished that no such hideous secret should remain a secret from her lover; and in the struggle of such truthful instinct with natural shrinking from revealing such a secret, a dramatist would have found glorious opportunity. I can imagine such a woman constantly impelled to tell her husband, and yet constantly restrained either by his carelessness or her shyness; and so the thing gets put off till her perception of his no longer caring for her makes the idea of an avowal too appalling. Then—when her mind was in this state—the reappearance of her father would have been tragic. But in Mr. Chorley's play the father appears just as all fathers appear in melodramas; and melo-dramatic issues are all that we have. She is suspected of having been his mistress. He murders her husband in a sudden and almost ludicrous manner; and she retires into a convent.

This outline is filled up with a number of episodes, not one of which do I

understand. She is made jealous of her husband—but nothing comes of her jealousy. Her husband is made to love, or to have loved, the Lady Violet; but nothing comes of it; and whether he loves or loves not is wrapped up in obscurity. There is a villainous courtier of the Iago school named Count Abelard—whom, on the stage, they persist in calling Abbild—*but his acts and motives are all mysterious and melodramatic*. In short, it is a strange medley of hints, notes, and intentions, none of which rise into dramatic clearness and purpose. Let me, however, be just even in details. The hints and intentions were often good; the situations sometimes striking. The whole of the second act was impressive, and parts of the scene in Bellotto's but, in the third, riveted attention. My criticism points rather to organic defects, which defects prevented the isolated merits from driving away the ennui produced by the whole.

The play is wearisome because it is not true, but still more so because it is not clear. It is made up of small details, nowhere the broad massive clearness of dramatic effect. There is some good writing every now and then, but it is in half lines. Instead of poetry we have scraps of verse; instead of passion, finikin irritability. Everything is on a small scale. Even the fifth act, which is like a French melodrama in its attempt to create an impression of Terror, by bringing the gloom of the catafalque on the stage, and which led us to anticipate at least a powerful effect in this line, shows that the author cannot "move a fine horror skilfully," as Charles Lamb said of the old English Dramatist; for having hung his chapel with black, having lighted his candles before the altar, having brought in the corpse on the bier, he lets all these materials do the duty of the poet, and cannot work out of them any grand dramatic terror!

The piece was put upon the stage with great care and beauty. The scenery and dresses were new and effective. The acting was indifferent; but it is fair to add that the actors had no material to work with. Miss Cushman had a very long, monotonous, and not agreeable part. Her best scenes were the second and the last. Her manner of listening to the slanderous insinuations of Count Abelard was the very best bit of acting I have seen of hers. But I cannot say that on the whole it was an attractive performance.

VIVIAN.

#### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

##### BIRTHS.

**ERRINGTON.**—March 9, at Stonehouse, Devon, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel Errington Fifty-first (K. O.) Light Infantry: a son.

**EARLE.**—March 8, at Brentwood, the wife of Joseph Earle, Esq., surgeon: a son.

##### MARRIAGES.

**HOSKE—BURROUGHES.**—March 9, at Burlingham St. Edmund, in the county of Norfolk, Dixon Edward Hoske, Captain Royal Artillery, to Jane Mary, daughter of the Rev. Jeremiah Burroughes, rector of Burlingham.

**M'MAHON—DAVIES.**—March 9, at the parish church of Streatham, Captain M'Mahon, Fourteenth (King's) Light Dragoons, to Julia, widow of Joseph Davies, Esq., of Stonecross, Surrey, and daughter of James Coster, Esq., of Hill-house, Streatham.

##### DEATHS.

**ASPINAL.**—March 10, at the residence of her father, 1, St. Mary's-road, Peckham, Annie, wife of the Rev. W. C. Aspinall.

**BAZAINER.**—March 6, at Paris, Amelie George Bazaine, granddaughter of Sir George Hayter, aged nineteen.

**HORN.**—March 11, at Winchfield, Hants, Jane Charlotte, the wife of G. W. Horn, Esq.

#### CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening, March 17.

**LOCAL TRADE.**—There are this week again liberal supplies of Wheat and Flour, and moderate of Oats and Barley. The demand for Wheat remains in the same sluggish state as on Monday, and to effect sales lower prices must be taken; but at the same time few holders are disposed to submit to a further decline.—Barley and Oats remain as on Monday.

**F.O.B.—PRICES.**—Prices recede in the Baltic ports, and there are a good many offers in hand, but buyers are not willing to come forward at present, and we hear of no transactions of moment since last week.

**FLOATING TRADE.**—We have again some arrivals this week,—say forty-two cargoes in all. For the time the trade is at a standstill. We know, up to the moment of writing, of but two sales of cargoes of all sorts—viz., one Wheat and one Barley, the latter at 28s. The price quoted for the Wheat is higher than we supposed it possible to obtain in the present state of the market. At Liverpool some extremely low sales of Maize and Flour have taken place, and the market does not appear inclined to rally at present. From France we have orders to sell Flour and Wheat. In Ireland stocks appear quite sufficient to meet the demand. The same is the case in Scotland.

#### BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK. (CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock	shut	shut	.....	.....	.....	.....
3 per Cent. Red.	shut	shut	.....	.....	.....	.....
3 per Cent. Con. An.	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91
Consols for Account	91	91 1/2	91	91 1/2	90 1/2	91
3½ per Cent. An.	92 1/2	.....	.....	.....	92 1/2	.....
New 5 per Cent.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Long Ans. 1860—	shut	shut	.....	.....	.....	shut
India Stock	233	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ditto Bonds, £1000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ditto, under £1000	.....	.....	4	9	.....	.....
Ex. Bills, £1000—	16 p	14 p	14 p	.....	8 p	8 p
Ex. Bills, £500—	16 p	14 p	14 p	13 p	12 p	11 p
Ditto, Small	16 p	14 p	14 p	14 p	10 p	12 p

#### FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY EVENING.)

Brazilian Bonds .....	98 1/2	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents 1822 .....	90
Buenos Ayres 6 per Cent. 54	54	Russian 44 per Cents .....	80 1/2
Chilian 6 per Cents .....	101 1/2	Spanish 3 p. Ct. New Def. 1824 .....	80 1/2
Danish 3 per Cents .....	70	Spanish Committee Cert. of Coup. not fun. ....	31
Ecuador Bonds .....	.....	Venezuela 34 per Cents .....	31
Mexican 3 per Cents .....	24 1/2	Mexican 3 per Ct. for Acc. March 15 .....	24
Acc. March 15 .....	24	British 44 per Cents .....	30 1/2
Portuguese 4 per Cents .....	36	Dutch 24 per Cents .....	56 1/2
Portuguese 3 p. Cents .....	.....	Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif. 80 1/2	.....

**ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA,**  
COVENT GARDEN.

The Nobility, Gentry, Subscribers, and Public, are respectfully informed that the SEASON will COMMENCE on Tuesday, March 28.—Full particulars of the Season will be duly announced.

#### ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.— Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.

Monday, and during the Week, will be performed a New Musical Comedietta, in Two Acts, called

##### THE WRONG BOX.

Principal Characters by Miss P. Horton, Miss Wyndham, Miss Turner, Mr. Robinson (of the Lyceum Theatre, his first appearance), and Mr. Alfred Wigan.

After which a New Comedietta, called

##### TO OBLIGE BENSON.

Characters by Messrs. Emery, F. Robson, Leslie, Mrs. Stirling, and Miss Wyndham.

##### THE FIRST NIGHT.

Characters by Messrs. A. Wigan, Leslie, Franks, H. Cooper, Vincent, Miss P. Horton, and Miss Wyndham.

**DR. KAHN.—REMOVAL and IMPOR-**  
**TANT ADDITIONS.**—Dr. KAHN's celebrated MUSEUM is NOW OPEN in the spacious premises known as the SALLE ROBIN, 232, Piccadilly, opposite the Haymarket.—Open for gentlemen from 11 till 5, and from 7 till 10 daily. Explanations by Dr. Leach. On Wednesday and Friday, a portion of the Museum is open for ladies only, from 2 till 5. Explanations given to the ladies by Mrs. Leach. Admission, 1s.

#### ROYAL PANOPTICON OF SCIENCE AND ART, LEICESTER-SQUARE.

Notice is hereby given, that the preliminary OPENING of this Institution, on Saturday next, will be extended during the whole of the following Week. Admission, 1s. Saturdays, 2s. Ed. Hours of Admission from 11 to 4, and from 7 to 10.

March 15th, 1854.

**A RT-UNION of LONDON.** (By Royal Charter.)—Every subscriber of one guinea will have an impression of a large plate of deep national and historical interest, "TILBURY FORT, WIND AGAINST TIDE," by J. T. Willmore, A.R.A., after C. Stanfield, R.A., now delivering at the office on payment of the subscription. Each prizewinner will be entitled to select for himself, as heretofore, a work of art from one of the public exhibitions.—44, West Strand, March.

GEORGE GODWIN, J. Hon. Secretaries.  
LEWIS POOCOCK.

#### SOCIETY of the FRIENDS of ITALY.

On Monday will be published, the MONTHLY RECORD, for March, containing important articles on the War, and on its probable effect on Italy, and on existing European relations and boundaries. The RECORD, price 1d. (gratis to members), may be obtained on application at the offices of the Society, 10, Southampton-street, Strand, or by sending three penny stamps. Persons can become members by paying an annual subscription of half-a-crown or upwards, either to the Secretary, or to the account of P. A. Taylor, Esq., Treasurer, at Messrs. Rogers, Olding, and Co., Bankers, Clement's-lane.

#### CHRISTIANITY AND SECULARISM.

SIX LECTURES on the above Subject will be delivered in the London Mechanics' Institution, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, by the Rev. BROOKE HEFFORD (of Todmorden), on

MONDAY,	March	20.
TUESDAY,	"	21.
THURSDAY,	"	23.
MONDAY,	"	27.
TUESDAY,	"	28.
THURSDAY,	"	30.

At the conclusion of each Lecture opportunity for Discussion will be afforded, when some friends of Secularism will explain their opinions of the arguments of the lecturer.

The Lectures will commence at eight o'clock.

Tickets for the Course, 1s. Single Admission, 3d.

Tickets can be obtained at the Institution, at 240, Strand, and at 147, Fleet-street.

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RECENT TESTIMONIAL.

34, Wine-street, Bristol, August 7, 1833.

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Tea ditto .....

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Dessert ditto and ditto .....

Tea ditto .....

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Dessert ditto and ditto .....

Tea ditto .....

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Dessert ditto and ditto .....

Tea ditto .....

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## THE LONDON PRINTING and PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Completely registered, and incorporated on the 24th of February, 1854, in pursuance of the Act 7 & 8 Vict., cap. 110. Capital £200,000, in 40,000 Shares of £5 each. Deposit £1 per Share, to pay on the complete registration of the Company (about the 1st of February, 1854).

A first call of 10s. per share will be payable on the 1st of May, 1854.

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Lieut.-Col. J. S. Brownrigg,  
Henry M. Brownrigg, Esq.

BANKERS.—Messrs. Williams, Deacon, and Co.

SECRETARY.—C. B. Rogers, Esq.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Wilson and Bristow, 1, Coothall-buildings.

Offices, Bluecoat-buildings, Christ's Hospital.

## PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of taking over and developing the extensive and lucrative printing and publishing businesses at present carried on by Mr. John Tallis, under the firm of John Tallis and Company, at 97 and 100, St. John-street, and 1 and 2, Bluecoat-buildings, Christ's Hospital, London; 75, New Bridge-street, Strangeways, Manchester; 49, Stafford-street, Liverpool; 14, Newhall-street, Birmingham; 38, Wilson-street, Bristol; 17, Coburg-street, Leeds; 31, Parc-street, Exeter; 14, Morley-street, Plymouth; 53, Magdalen-street, Norwich; 13, Park-street, Worcester; 4, Orchard-tariff, Southampton; and at 3, Rutbury-street, Edinburgh; 55, North Hanover-street, Glasgow; 208, George-street, Aberdeen; 40, Fleet-street, Dublin; 55, Nelson-street, Belfast; also at 40, John-street, New York; 120, Hanover-street, Boston; 50, Walnut-street, Philadelphia; 224, South Charles-street, Baltimore; 99, Third-street, Cincinnati; 82, State-street, Rochester; Notre Dame-street, Montreal; King-street, Toronto; Barrington-street, Halifax; Nova Scotia; and Germain-street, St. John's, New Brunswick; with Agencies in other towns of England, Scotland, Ireland, and America.

The business consists chiefly in the publication of a high class of books, got up in the best style, with beautiful illustrations, and in the sale of them, partly to trade customers, but chiefly direct to the public by means of the firm's branch establishments, as above enumerated. Upwards of 200 persons are at present employed at the factory at St. John-street in the various trades of composing, stereotyping, letter-press printing by steam power, engraving, steel and copper-plate printing, and bookbinding, by which means the firm have been enabled to produce their books at a cost much below that of the ordinary publisher, while their extensive connections in England, Scotland, Ireland, and America, ensure an enormous sale. Not less than 300 persons are employed by the firm in the branch establishments. The business has been extending itself year by year, until every corner of the London factory has become so inconveniently crowded, either with workpeople or stock, that a large extension of room is indispensable. The firm are already in possession of numerous valuable works all of which are stereotyped, and the sale of which could be pushed to an immense extent at home, in the colonies, and in America, wherever the English language is spoken. The same machinery, which has proved so successful hitherto, might, with increased capital, be employed for producing on a similar scale of magnitude, and distributing at home and abroad, with a large profit to the manufacturer, and with incalculable benefit to mankind, works even of a class superior to any which the firm have hitherto undertaken.

Under these circumstances, it has been arranged that the concern should be taken over by a Joint Stock Company, with a capital sufficient to admit of any such extension of business as can be immediately contemplated, and with a power to increase the capital eventually, if it should be found desirable to do so some years hence. Mr. John Tallis, by whose energy the business has been formed, will continue to conduct it as Managing Director, at a remuneration of five per cent. upon the net profit; Mr. E. T. Brain, the present Superintendent of the business, and would be well qualified to conduct it in the case of Mr. Tallis's death, will be associated with Mr. Tallis in the management.

One object which Mr. Tallis and the Directors have in view in the formation of the Company, is to move the factory out of London to some healthy and convenient spot in the country, where sufficient land will be bought to allow ample room not only for any possible future extension of business, but also for cottages and gardens for the workpeople. It is proposed in substance to imitate the educational and recreational arrangements which have been introduced with much success and much benefit to all concerned at the factory of Price's Patent Candle Company at Vauxhall; and it is intended that the appropriation to such purposes of a liberal proportion of the net profits of the business should be made a part of the constitution of the Company. The concern will be made over to the Company as it stood on the 1st of October, 1853, viz., a few days before the formation of the Company was first entertained. The Company will receive all the property of every kind which was invested in the concern on the 1st of October, 1853, to a very large value, consisting in great part of manufactured stock, for which there is a certain sale at a large profit. The liabilities taken over by the Company will be only the current trade accounts of a reasonable amount, and which might be paid as they fall due out of the incoming receipts without any addition to the capital. It is intended that in future the business should be carried on by the Company as much as possible for ready money, not only as an economical mode of trading, but in order to afford a practical security to the proprietors against liability beyond their shares. With the same view it will be provided by the deed of settlement that the directors shall not have power to accept bills of exchange, or to make promissory notes. The purchase-money of the concern, everything included, will be 25,000*s*. cash, to be paid by easy instalments during the first twelve months, with interest at five per cent. from the 1st of October, 1853, and 3000 shares paid up immediately in full, and representing, therefore, a nominal capital of 40,000*s*. (as from the 1st of October, 1853), but subject to a preference dividend of eight per cent. in favour of the shares of the new proprietors. This preference will continue until the concern has yielded a dividend equal to eight per cent. upon all the shares, Mr. Tallis's included, for four consecutive years, after which, the value of the undertaking being fully established, the two classes of shares will repre-

sent upon an equal footing the respective amounts paid up upon them. The Directors see no reason to doubt that the concern would well afford a regular dividend of ten per cent. from the commencement; but they propose, as a more prudent arrangement, to give anything which it may be thought fit to divide beyond eight per cent. in the shape of bonuses.

By his contract with the Company, Mr. Tallis will agree to look to the funds of the Company, and not to the proprietors, for the fulfillment of the terms agreed upon. There will therefore be a strictly legal limitation of liability as regards the only part of the undertaking from which any risk of liability could have arisen.—Applications for shares may be made to the Secretary, at the Company's Offices, Bluecoat-buildings, Christ's Hospital, London; or to Messrs. James Wilson and Sons, 80, Old Broad-street; or Henry Christie, Esq., 2, Coothall-chambers, London, the Company's brokers.

London, Jan. 31, 1854.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.  
To the Directors of the London Printing and Publishing Company.

Gentlemen,—Being desirous of becoming a subscriber to the above undertaking, I request you will allot to me shares of £5 each therein, the whole of which, or any less number that may be allotted to me, I hereby agree to accept, and on demand to pay the required deposit of £1 per share; and I also agree to execute the deed of settlement of the Company, to be prepared by the Directors, when called upon to do so by circular sent by post to my address, as at foot; or in the event of my failure to do so for one month afterwards, I agree that the shares allotted to me, with the deposits paid thereon, shall be forfeited to the use of the Company.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

Name in full .....  
Address .....  
Profession or business .....  
Reference .....  
Date .....

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